



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE

Newsletter

January/March 2023

DECEMBER MASS & MEETING:

Our usual location for the Serra Meetings at St Catherine's Moorabbin, had to be changed as the church was closed for two weeks for repairs to the roof and ceiling.

After checking that it was available, St Peter's Bentleigh East became the venue.

Also, unfortunately, St Paul's Bentleigh was having Advent Reflections on the same night, and so members of the Oakleigh Deanery Club were unable to be present.

However, the evening was a great success, with Bishop Tony Ireland as the Principal Celebrant, accompanied by our Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, Fr Kevin Dillon, Fr Barry Tobin, Fr Denis Stanley, Fr James Baptist and Fr Clem Cafarella.

A total of 27 were in attendance, and after the Mass, sat down to a great meal prepared by our Caterer.

COMING EVENTS:

Once again Corpus Christi Seminary has welcomed the opportunity for Serrans from District 89 to visit the Seminary. The date is Sunday March 12th, with Mass in Sacred Heart Church at 11.30am, followed by Lunch with the College staff and seminarians.

Those in attendance will have the opportunity to meet the new Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes STL, who is no stranger to Serrans, as he had been a member of the Seminary previously. He replaced Fr Denis Stanley on 1st January 2023, and as Father Cameron had been the parish priest of St Patrick's Mentone, they just exchanged places, as Fr Denis has been appointed parish priest of Mentone.

Monday 3rd April is the day that the Serra Club of Sale is conducting its annual Sports Day and Dinner.

This is the Monday before Easter, and held on this day as the priests of the Diocese are in Sale for the Annual Mass of the Oils. Several Serrans from Melbourne usually make the trip to Sale and join the Sale members for the Dinner and join in some of the sports as well.

It is very well patronized, and clergy from other Denominations are also invited, with attendance usually about 100 or more in total.

JOURNALIST DAVID KEHOE was a guest speaker at the September meeting, and spoke about his experiences as a Catholic Journalist, not only in the Catholic Media, but also how Catholics fare in the secular media,

He said: In the internet arena, private, orthodox news services and general web sites have been quite successful with Catholic World News, Zenit, Catholic News Agency and Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network being the most prominent. US is bursting with Catholic online media.

He also should not go further without referring to Church teaching on the mass media which goes back to the 1930's at least.

In one of the first teachings of Vatican II, Inter Mirifica, the Holy Spirit reaffirmed that the "media, if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind, since they greatly contribute to men's entertainment and instruction as well as to the spread and support of the Kingdom of God."

The Holy Spirit urged bishops to make full use of the media, and to spend money to achieve that objective, and for the laity to especially strive "to instill a human and Christian spirit into these media, so that they may fully measure up to the great expectations of mankind and to God's design.

The Church was called upon to ensure the "prompt publication of affairs and events" to provide with a fuller, continuing acquaintance with them, and thus all can contribute more effectively to the common good and more readily promote and advance the welfare of the entire civil society."

To instill a fully Christian spirit into readers, a truly Catholic press should be set up and encouraged.

"Such a press ... should be edited with the clear purpose of forming, supporting and advancing public opinion in accord with natural law and Catholic teaching and precepts.

"It should disseminate and properly explain news concerning the life of the Church."

Unfortunately, the opposite occurred, at least in European and English-speaking countries.

Circulation and listening audiences began to plummet as many young Catholics stopped practicing their faith, or never began.

If you're not interested enough to go to Mass, then you certainly won't buy a Catholic paper or listen to a Catholic program.

Of course, a significant reason for this loss of faith lay with those bishops and priests who misunderstood the teaching of Vatican II and began to adapt Church teaching and practice to non-Catholic and secular standards, often unwittingly, and most laity and religious followed as they knew little different.

The Catholic media's role in this was to confirm the trend, and this happened quickly as it is in the nature of dissenters to seek control of the means of mass communication. The problem is that the media tends to attract journalists with progressive ideas.

Pope John Paul II knew that bishops instinctively put the media at the bottom of priorities with thinking of evangelism: In the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, he said, "Generally, preference has been given to other means of preaching the Gospel and of Christian education, while the mass media are left to the initiative of individuals or small groups and enter into pastoral planning only in a secondary way."

Many bishops as mentioned earlier have difficulty, when a problem come to push and shove, dealing with the independent nature of modern journalism, which independence goes against the obedience that bishops are normally and rightly in the best sense shown within the Church.

Yet bishops should be ready to accept the independence of journalists serving with fairness and accuracy, especially as *Aetatis Novae*, the 1992 pastoral instruction on the media, reminded them that the Code of Canon Law affirmed that, besides showing obedience to the pastors of the church, the faithful "are at liberty to make known their needs, especially their spiritual needs, and their wishes" to these pastors, and that the faithful, in keeping with their knowledge, competence and position, have "the right, indeed at times the duty," to express to the pastors their views on matters concerning the good of the church.

A professional journalist, no matter how orthodox, putting this exhortation into practice, ... will soon find him or herself stepping on landmines.

One archbishop went a long way at one stage in the last 25 years in allowing this independence but even he may have decided to put the experiment on hold for the moment.

Loreto Conference, *Richard Rohr* goes, although I suspect that the Australian experience is replicated in the US and Canada at least.

On Catholics working in the Secular Media, when I first worked in the secular media for Australia's home grown wire service, Australian Associated Press, in the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery, I was stuck by the number of journalists in our office of about 12 who had Irish names.

REMEMBERto say the Serran Prayer... DAILY

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Jan 25th NO MEETING
 Feb 22nd St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
 March 22nd Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner
 April 26th Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

Jan	St Catherine's. Moorabbin	8.30am
Feb	Stella Maris, Beaumaris	9.15am
March	St Leonard's, Glen Waverley	9.15am
April	St Joseph's, Elsternwick	10,00am

MASS ROSTER:

	Feb	March	April
Reader:	Frank	John	Anne
Prayers of the Faithful:	Frank	John	Anne
Offertory Procession:	-	-	-
Minister of Communion:	John	Anne	Frank

Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.