

**SERRA CLUB of**

**MELBOURNE**

**Newsletter**

August/October 2023

SERRA SOCIAL

It is not really a social, but it is planned to have a social and fundraising event on Sunday 17th September at St Joseph’s Chelsea. It will be in the afternoon, approximately 2pm to 5pm, with good food, a silent auction and raffles, so you will need your wallet. Please note the date.

APPRECIATION LUNCH

Once again, the Serra Club of Melbourne will arrange a Luncheon for our priests and religious to demonstrate our appreciation for our priests and religious, and to thank them for all that they do both for our religious life and their friendship over the years.

The function will be held at the Bentleigh RSL on Wednesday 13th September, commencing at noon for 12.30pm. Club Secretary, Frank McCulloch, will be sending invitations and if you wish to invite someone, please contact Frank.

**Solemnity of Corpus Christi**

On Sunday, 11 June 2023 the Solemnity of Corpus Christi was celebrated at the Sacred Heart Church, Corpus Christi College with a Holy Mass, Eucharistic Procession through the streets and Vespers and Benediction.

It was truly a special occasion as Corpus Christi College was also celebrating its 100th anniversary as a regional seminary for Victoria and Tasmania.

The Principal Celebrant at the Mass was the Very Reverend Dr Cameron Forbes, Rector of Corpus Christi College who was accompanied on the sanctuary by Reverend Brian Nicholls, Vice Rector and Formator, Corpus Christi College and Reverend Fr. Dean Taberdo from the Diocese of Darwin

and the most recent alumnus of Corpus Christi College. There were also a number of other concelebrating priests.

The Homily was given by the English Benedictine, Right Reverend Abbot Paul Gunter OSB, Douai Abbey, Woolhampton, UK who focused on the Feast of Corpus Christi as a foundation of the Catholic Faith and praised the past, present and emerging young men who have passed, or are passing through, Corpus Christi seminary to serve God and the community.

The music and singing of the Seminary Choir led by Xavier Ryan, seminarian was very beautiful indeed.

The Sacred Heart Church was full to over-flowing with around 500 people in attendance showing great support for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi College.

The Mass, Procession and Benediction was a fitting climax to the weekend of activities at Corpus Christi College celebrating the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and the 100th anniversary of the College. Members of Serra were given a special invitation.

**2023 Serra International Convention**

The 80th Serra International Convention was held on 22-25 June 2023 at Chiang Mai, Thailand with around 400 people in attendance including 2 Serra members from Australia. Anne Larkins, President of SCANZSPAC and John Short, President of the Serra Club of Melbourne.

The theme of the Conference was “Come and See” (Jn. 1:39).

The principal celebrant of the Opening Mass was the Most Reverend Bishop Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai at the beautiful Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Concelebrants included Archbishop Peter Bryan Wells, the Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand who gave a welcome message from the Holy See.

His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, President of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) was the principal celebrant at the Mass on 23 June 2023 at the Convention Centre.

The principal celebrant of the Closing Mass on 24 June 2023, the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, was His Eminence Cardinal Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij, Archbishop of Bangkok and chair of the CBCT, Office of Seminary and Vocations.

A number of very interesting keynote presentations were made at the Convention including:

* Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization from Rome who spoke on the missionary theme of the Conference “Come and See”. He focused on the interplay between vocation and mission and emphasised that a Christian vocation focused on Jesus is always a mission.
* His Eminence Cardinal Marc Armand Ouellet, Prefect Emeritus of the Dicastery for Bishops who spoke on the communion of vocations with a focus on the 2022 Theological Symposium in Rome.

* His Eminence Cardinal Charles Bo, President of the FABC on the challenge of Holy Orders and religious vocations from an Asian perspective. Despite these challenges Asia was relatively blessed with vocations compared to many other parts of the world.

* Ms Mary Sarindhorn Mativachranon who spoke about her life including how God called her from being a Buddhist to become a Catholic,

* Dr Peter R Monthienvichienchai, Secretary General of SIGNIS and Executive Director of LiCAS News on Catholic communication and how to make a genuine human connection especially in relation to vocations.

* Kevin Obasi, Serra Club of Ikeja, Nigeria on the role of parents in their child’s vocation choices.

A feature and highlight of the Convention were the engagement of youth through the enthusiastic and uplifting music and singing at Mass, cultural performances from the children of the Sacred Heart School and Montfort School and the session on “Youthful Priestly and Religious Vocations” by young Serrans.

Congratulations to Dr Chainarong Monthievichienchai, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee and other Committee members for an outstanding International Convention where all were made so welcome.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

July 26th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin

Aug 23rd Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner.

Sept 27th Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

Oct 25th

**SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS**

July St Finbar’s, Brighton East 9.30am

August St Anthony’s. Glen Huntly 9.15am

Sept St Patrick’s. Murrumbeena 9.15am

Oct St Patrick’s, Mentone 9.15am

**MASS ROSTER: *July Aug Sept Oct* Reader:**  John Anne Frank Terese

**Offertory Procession :**  Guests - - -

**Minister of Communion:** Clergy Christine Anne Frank

**Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.**

**REMEMBER .....**

**to say the Serran Prayer...**

**DAILY**