



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE

October 2023/February 2024

Newsletter

INSTALLATION OF EXECUTIVE

The July meeting was the occasion for the Installation of the Executive for 2023-2024 year. President John Short gave a report of the previous year's achievements. A total of 24 members and guests attended.

While the Club may be small in number, a great number of worthwhile activities were accomplished. Our Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling turned 90 years of age in August 2022., and several members attended the Thanksgiving Mass at St Anne's Sunbury on 11th September 2022

K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Fundraising Dinner was once again held at the Moonee Valley Racecourse on Friday 1st September. Members of the Serra Club of Melbourne were there, as was the President of the Serra Club of Oakleigh Deanery, Vincent O'Brien. Serra has supported this function since its inception in 1996.

A record crowd of 450 attended, and a cheque for \$75,000 was presented to Archbishop Peter Comensoli to be divided between the Victorian Dioceses and the Military Ordinate.

Fr Cameron Forbes, the Rector of Corpus Christi Seminary, was the Guest Speaker.

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS LUNCHEON

The Annual Luncheon that is organized by the Club was held at the Bentleigh R.S.L. on 13th September. A total of 36 priests, religious and Serrans from the Melbourne and Oakleigh Deanery Clubs enjoyed a very pleasant and warm event.

Archbishop Comensoli, Bishop Peter Elliott, and Bishop Les Tomlinson, 8 priests and 10 sisters were our guests.

SERRAN MAGAZINE

The Serran Magazine, the official quarterly publication of Serra International, in its August edition, featured an interview with our Club President, John Short, in which he recounted how he became involved in the Club, and the effect that it has had on his life. It outlined the various achievements of the Club over a 12-month period, and also highlighted our Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, and how Fr Dowling, among his many other achievements, is renowned in Australia for hosting the country's longest running radio program, where he has provided fatherly advice to callers for over 50 years.

Serra Club of Melbourne—Events and Activities As per Serra International Magazine

- **Annual Visit to Corpus Christi College**

This is the regional seminary for Victoria and Tasmania. Mass followed by lunch with the seminary staff and seminarians. Members from all four Serran clubs in the State of Victoria attend this annual visit.

- **Saturday Morning Vocation Masses**

Each month we join one of the 12 churches in the region for the Saturday morning Mass to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. These Masses support and complement the vocation related activities in each parish.

- **Archbishop's Priests Support and Education Fund Dinner**

We take a table at this annual event, which raises funds to support our Bishops with the education of clergy and seminarians and the Australian Military Ordinariate. It has raised over \$A1.3 million since inception and is attended by around 400 people each year.

- **Religious Anniversaries**

We contact all local religious communities to obtain a list of anniversaries that occur that year. We then send around 250 anniversary cards to priests

and consecrated men and women throughout the Australian, New Zealand and South Pacific region (SCANZSPAC). Many of the recipients express their thanks for our prayers and thoughts and are pleasantly surprised to receive the congratulations. The project commenced at the first meeting of the Club in 1968.

- **Annual luncheon for priests and consecrated men and women**

This luncheon expresses our gratitude for the wonderful service they provide, often in a quiet and unassuming manner; for the sacrifices they make and to reaffirm to them the vital importance of their vocation..

- **Annual Serra Club Retreat**

In the past this has been held for the spiritual enrichment of our members. Members from all 4 Serra Clubs in the \State of Victoria attend this retreat. We are currently seeking a new venue given that the past venue became too expensive.

- **Annual Mass for Consecrated life**

This is an Annual Mass with the Archbishop as the principal celebrant, followed by morning tea. It has been a special day for 250 to 300 priests and consecrated men and women in attendance to honour their service to God and the community and to renew friendships.

- **Annual Mass for the parents, families and friends of priests and consecrated men and women**

This Mass was a wonderful opportunity to thank those parents, families and friends for helping to create an environment where vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life can flourish and for their encouragement and support. It was also a great opportunity for families to meet and renew acquaintances.

Serra Australia Foundation funds “Discernment Camino”

Prior to COVID, the Serra Australia Foundation provided some financial assistance to the Vocations Office to help fund Fr Nicholas Pearce and a group of around 13 young men to undertake the Camino de Santiago walk in Spain as part of their process of discerning a vocation to the priesthood (2017,2018).

REMEMBERto say the Serran Prayer... DAILY

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

| | | |
|-----|------|--|
| Oct | 25th | St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin |
| Nov | NIL | Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner |
| Dec | 6th | Meeting in the Sweeney Centre. |
| Jan | NIL | |
| Feb | 28th | |

As shown above, there is no meeting in November, as the Club Executive decided that the Christmas period is very crowded, and so changed the December meeting to the first Wednesday instead of the second. It also decided that the November meeting date was so close, and so cancelled the meeting in November.

Also, as shown, there is no meeting in January and so the first meeting for 2024 will be Wednesday 28th February.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--------|
| Oct | St Patrick's, Mentone | 9.15am |
| Nov | OLA Cheltenham | 9.00am |
| Dec | St Joseph's, Springvale | 8.00am |
| Jan 2024 | St Catherine's, Moorabbin | 8.30am |
| February | Stella Maris, Beaumaris | 9.15am |

MASS ROSTER:

| | <i>Oct</i> | <i>Dec</i> | <i>Feb</i> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Reader: | Teresa | John | Anne |
| Offertory Procession: | - | Guests | - |
| Minister of Communion: | Frank | Clergy | John |
| Meals Clean Up: | All Members urged to assist. | | |