**SERRA CLUB of**

**MELBOURNE**

**Newsletter**

March 2023

**NEW CHAPLAIN**

Fr Barry Tobin P.E., has accepted the invitation of Club President, John short, to become the Chaplain for the Serra Club of Melbourne. Fr Barry responded by saying that he would be delighted and honoured to take on this chaplaincy role.

Father’s last official appointment was as parish priest of Murrumbeena. He retired a few years ago and has been providing supply to churches in the Bayside area. He currently lives in Highett.

**SERRA AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION**

The Foundation was founded in 1982, emerging from Serra Clubs which were first established in the United States to support vocations. The first Serra meeting held in Australia in 1968 was in Melbourne, and the clubs were chartered in Sydney and Melbourne in 1970.

Serra Foundation looks to raise awareness about vocations.

A foundation that has supported priestly and religious vocations for more than 40 years in inviting Catholics to offer prayers and financial support to men and women making lifelong commitments to the church.

The Foundation began in 1982 with $4000 raised from across the country. In the decades since, tens of thousands of dollars have been donated and distributed to support vocations and vocations related activities.

The Chairman of the Foundation’s board of trustees, Neville Hackett, said that funds have been used to help seminarian and young pilgrims attend World Youth Day, people undertake discernment, support with expansion of facilities at seminaries, assisting education and training and participation in retreats.

“Our Church is deeply indebted to the men and women who commit to lives of prayer, service and ministry”, Neville said.

The prayerful encouragement Serra clubs offer and the financial assistance that the Serra Foundation can provide are a way in which the faithful can express our gratitude and love for those servants of the Lord.

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Membership of Serra Clubs is open to all practicing Catholic laymen and lay women and permanent deacons.

There are several clubs across Australia that meet regularly for prayer, fellowship and discussion.

‘In addition to those already in ministry and those considering ministry we also look for ways to recognise and respond to God’s call to holiness in our own lives’.

The Serra Foundation welcomes donations from all people, whether they be members of a local Serra club or not.

Bishop Michael Kennedy of Maitland and Newcastle has served for many years as Episcopal Adviser to Serra and the Foundation.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, it was decided to adopt the USA “Serra coin” program in Australia. The coin is designed to be attached to a keyring and offers an invitation to prospective seminarians. On one side, the question is asked: “Have you considered becoming a priest?” On the reverse side is a Cross with Serra International shown at the base of the Cross. It is made from brass and is very impressive.

SCANZSPAC has made a request to the Foundation for a grant to purchase these coins. This was approved and a cheque for $3500 has been forwarded.

The Foundation has provided funds for Vocations projects including:

· Support for Seminaries in third world countries

· Training in the Armed Services of priest and deacons, and provision of prayer books for use by service men and women

· Support for diocesan seminars, which included prayer sessions and talks, for men interested in learning about vocations

· Providing assistance to enable young men and women attend World Youth Day.

The long-term objective of the Foundation is to have sufficient funds to contribute directly to the education of priests, deacons and consecrated men and women.

All Serrans are urged to donate to the Serra Australia Foundation to enable this objective to be fulfilled, and to provide a bequest in their will to the Foundation,

**SALE NEWS**

The Annual Sports Day organised each year by the Serra Club of Sale has been cancelled this year, as Reg Carmody, the organiser of the event, is ill. Please keep Reg in your prayers.

K.S.C. DINNER

This is another annual event that is not only a very enjoyable outing, but also the occasion to meet other likeminded Catholics, including many priests and religious.

The date is Friday 30th August, and it is assumed that it will, once again, be held at Moonee Valley Racecourse.

APPRECIATION LUNCH

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

The function will be held at the Bentleigh R.S.L. on Wednesday 11th 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.

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Feb 29th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin

March 27th Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by Dinner

April 24th Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

**SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS**

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:**  - - -

**Offertory Procession:**  - - -

**Minister of Communion:** Teresa Anne Frank

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

REMEMBER .....to say the Serran Prayer... DAILY