



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

October/November 2018

RETREAT AND SEMINARY VISIT

The Annual Serra District 89 Retreat has been booked at Holy Cross Retreat Centre at Templestowe for Saturday 6th April 2019, and as it was such a success this year, the Mass and Luncheon visit to Corpus Christi Seminary will be on Sunday 7th April 2019. 2018 provided a great opportunity to gather on the one weekend and resulted in the best attendance at the Retreat in many years.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker at the meeting in September was Brother Vincent Brookes CCS. He outlined the reasons for the establishment of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest in 1954 at Ayr, North Queensland. The idea grew in the mind of Fr John Whiting, a Redemptorist Priest, that there was a great need for an Order devoted to ministering to the "Churchless", and with the permission and blessings of the Redemptorists he set out to fulfil this great need.

The ideal was to assume responsibility for a parish, and through person to person visitation to bring the Catholic Faith to everyone in that particular area by this intensive evangelisation. The plan was based on the ideal of IMPACT, IMPART, DEPART, over a 20 to 25 year period. It is 65 years since its commencement and currently have 8 students, 4 having been Professed at the Seminary in Wagga Wagga, and 4 Novices studying at their house of studies in Wagga Wagga.

The Confraternity publishes Contact. A quarterly magazine which is in its 60th year in 2019, since its inception, the Order also maintains an office and residence in Melbourne to assist in the work of the Confraternity.

SCANZSPAC CONVENTION

The 11th SCANZSPAC Biennial Convention was held at the Catholic Leadership Centre. East Melbourne, commencing with Mass at St John the Evangelist Church on Friday evening, 19th October, followed by a Welcoming Function at the Centre.

The Theme for the Convention was "The Universal Call to Holiness", which commenced on Saturday 20th October, with a welcome by John Short, Melbourne Club President. The first speaker was Sister Melanie Edwards MGL. Sister said that she works at least 2 days a week in the Parkville Youth Justice System in Melbourne, which she has been doing for 13 years.

Using the example of the storyline of the book "The Secret Garden", she said it calls us to reflect on our own lives. Parts of our lives may feel like this neglected garden, and we become closed off from the love of others. There are two elements in overcoming this; to love God and our neighbour. Through prayer we may achieve what God is inviting us to do.

Father Marcus Goulding who was ordained in 2017, is an assistant priest at the Box Hill Parish. He is currently the youngest priest in the Archdiocese. He said that we are made to be saints. Holiness is for everyone using Jesus as the roadmap.

Fr Kevin Dillon AM, now Parish Priest of St Simon the Apostle, Rowville, and for many years P.P. at St Mary of the Angels in Geelong works with and supports many abuse victims and Vietnam Veterans. Fr Dillon was ordained in 1969, and apart from his duties to his parish he has for several years been involved in counselling and assisting victims of abuse, many by clergy and religious, and by members of the victims' families.

Their lives have been deeply damaged by this abuse and fight for justice, and he estimates that he has been involved with over 150 victims.

He also spoke about the declining numbers of parishioners and wondered who will fill the seats in the future. In regard to the shortage of priests, there are a number who are currently not able to perform their priestly duties for various reasons, but suggested that their cases could be examined, with many being able to perform their public ministry. Father said that unless the Church recognises the seriousness of the current situation and faces the reality that the world is vastly different now to what it was, there will be troubled times ahead. However, he urged everyone to hold our commitment, and not be complacent, as we are not through these difficulties.

Fr Denis Stanley, Rector of Corpus Christi College Seminary in Carlton was accompanied by four Seminarians, Jude Johnson, in his 5th year of study, Jackson Saunders, 4th year, Allan Aclan 2nd year, and An Lee, also in his 2nd year. They spoke about their lives and their vocation and demonstrated their sincerity and desire to become priests. It was very inspiring to listen to these young men, and we must pray that if they are suitable, they will continue their journey to the priesthood.

Fr Stanley spoke about the courses offered to newly ordained priests to undertake a Business Course to enable them to realise the need for practical knowledge and ability to manage a parish.

The final speaker was Fr Nick Pearce, who was ordained in 2010, and is currently Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Mount Waverley, and assistant Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Fr Pearce did the "El Camino" walk in 2015 and was so inspired that it could be a means for young men to discern if they had a religious vocation. In conjunction with Fr Pert, he approached Archbishop Denis Hart with this idea. Having received permission, he embarked on a plan to see who may be interested, what the cost would be, and to set out a program to recruit potential participants and to raise money to subsidise the project. He approached the Serra Australia Foundation for help, and they examined the concept and agreed to donate \$3,000.00. While it was very demanding, Father Nick found that it was a great experience for those participating, so much so that he felt that the original in 2017, was worth repeating. He again received permission from, archbishop Hart, and once again raised money through some parishes, friends, and once again the Foundation granted him \$3,000.00.

The group was able to have daily Mass as they travelled, and the opportunity for Confession and general spiritual direction. The encounter with various places, events and other people gave a new horizon and direction to many. On the second day, they met a young man from USA who asked to

join them, and he has since entered a Seminary in the United States. Four of the men are actively discerning their future. Each of the participants had to raise a certain proportion of the money required. Fr Nick also felt that going to World Youth Day gave a great opportunity for young people to discern their future.

CONVENTION MASS AND DINNER

The Convention Mass was celebrated by the Episcopal Advisor to SCANZSPAC, Bishop Les Tomlinson, and Fr Gerard Dowling, Chaplain to the Serra Club of Melbourne concelebrated.

Sister Geraldine Larkins RSJ acted as Cantor, and led the hymns, with Dr Paul Taylor as Organist.

At the conclusion of Mass, those present moved to the dining room of the Centre, where everyone enjoyed the Dinner and fellowship.

The President of the Melbourne Club, John Short, welcomed everyone, and thanked the organisers and all the speakers. They were inspirational and provided a great insight into the theme "Universal Call to Holiness".

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

November 28th St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
 December 12th Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by
 Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

January 2019 **MEETING CANCELLED**

February 27th

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

December	St Joseph's Springvale	8.00am
January	St Catherine's Moorabbin	8.30am
February	St Mary's Hampton	8.30am

MASS ROSTER:

	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>
Reader:	Anne	John	Meeting	Anne
Prayers of the Faithful:	John	Frank	Cancelled	Dan
Offertory Procession:	Jo/Terry	Guests		Jo/Terry
Minister of Communion:	Frank/Dan	Concelebrants		John/Frank
Meals Clean Up:	All Members urged to assist.			