



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE

Newsletter

February 2019

MARY SIMPSON

It was with great sadness that we learnt Mary Simpson, twin sister of Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling had died on 23rd January 2019. The Requiem Mass was concelebrated at St Cecilia's Catholic Church Glen Iris on Thursday 31st January.

Fr Dowling was the Principal Celebrant, and Fr Kevin McGovern, from St Cecilia's, and other priest friends concelebrated the Mass with him. The Church was packed with relatives, friends, and members of the Serra Club of Melbourne.

SALE CLUB

The Serra Club of Sale will be holding its Annual Golf/Bowls Day on Monday 15th April, including the Dinner in the evening. The event is held on the Monday of Holy Week as the priests of the Diocese are in Sale to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Oils on the next day, and attracts over a hundred guests each year. The Club invites all the clergy of the Diocese, and also the ministers of other denominations, and it is a great ecumenical gathering.

K.S.C. DINNER

The Annual Archbishop's Dinner, sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross will be held on Friday 16th August. This will be the 21st Annual Dinner and it has raised about \$1.2 million, which is given equally to the Dioceses of Victoria and the Military Ordinariate to assist in the education of seminarians and additional study for priests. The Guest Speaker is not known at this stage.

RETREAT AND SEMINARY VISIT

The Annual Serra District 89 Retreat has been booked for Saturday 6th April 2019. The venue will be at Holy Cross Retreat Centre, Serpells Road Templestowe, where we have been now for several years.

The Retreat Facilitator will be Sr Brigid Murphy CP. Sister Brigid is an experienced presenter and for a number of years has conducted one day "Come Away Days" at Holy Cross.

The Theme of the Retreat will be: "When the well seems dry—Rediscovering the well within". Contact Neville Hackett to make a booking.

SEMINARY MASS AND LUNCH

Following on from the success of last year, where the Retreat and Seminary Visit were held on the one weekend, Neville Hackett and Frank McCulloch have organised the same arrangements for this year.

Mass will be at 11.30am at Corpus Christs College Seminary, 180 Drummond Street Carlton, with Mass in the Sacred Heart Church, followed by Lunch in the College Dining Room on Sunday 7th April 2019.

As last year was such a resounding success, it is advisable that you contact Frank McCulloch as soon as possible, if you wish to come to the seminary, as there is a limit on numbers that can be accommodated.

ANNE LARKINS, President of SCANZSPAC, presented this Report at our November meeting, but this subject is so important that it must be re-emphasised.

The President of Serra International, Mario Biscardi, stated that during his term as President, and as the opportunity arises, he will be asking:

- ◆ Every Serran to bring one new member in 2019
- ◆ Every District to bring in one new Serra Club in 2019
- ◆ Every Council to have their District Governors focused on Membership
- ◆ Every DG to work closely with each Club President in increasing Membership
- ◆ Past Presidents to work with their DG's as Deputy District Governors in helping them to maintain the focus on Membership

How can each Serran find one new member?

Before you invite people write down your own thoughts on why are you a Serran and what convinced you to join.

Identify three Serran activities that you enjoy and that fulfil Serra's mission. Think about why you support Serra and what blessings your membership has brought to you. How important is it to pass on your Catholic faith and to have the sacraments available to the next generations. How would you feel if there were no priests for your Parish?

The discussion that this message from Mario Biscardi generated was very good and very lively. Our Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, suggested that we each think about why we joined Serra, and what benefit it had on our lives, and this in turn, could provide ideas on our approach to prospective Serrans.

⇒ Firstly, consider your spouse, siblings, children, relatives and friends, and invite them to join Serra. Serra has helped each of us grow in our Catholic Faith, and it therefore follows that we would want to have our loved ones and good friends in Serra as well.

- ⇒ If no relatives or friends can be found who are interested in Serra, then the next best place is your Pastor. Invite him to a Serra meeting as a Guest Speaker and ask him for referrals. Ask him also for permission to invite daily communicants to a Serra information meeting after morning Mass, or start a new Club 31.
- ⇒ If the Pastor does not have any referrals for you, look at the volunteers in your parish, namely ushers, lectors, ministers, etc. people who have a deep appreciation for the priesthood.
- ⇒ If no parishioner can be found, then ask your priest friends or seminarians for referrals, especially family and extended family members of priests and seminarians for they are good prospects for Serra.
- ⇒ Serra Italy Council has had tremendous results in increasing membership by inviting prospective Serrans to their Serra vocation activities, as well as to our monthly meetings.
- ⇒ Serra Clubs in the USA have had excellent results by devoting at least one Serra meeting each year to promote Serra membership by inviting prospective members attend to hear a presentation on Serra along with the testimony of Serrans, the Club Chaplain and/or Vocation Director and/or Bishop.

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NOTICE OF MEETINGS

February 27th	St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
March 27th	Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by
April 24th	Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

February	St Mary's Hampton	8.30am
March	St Leonard's Glen Waverley	9.00am
April	St Joseph's Elsternwick	10.00am

MASS ROSTER

	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>
Reader:	Anne	Max	John
Prayers of the Faithful:	Dan	Frank	Jo
Offertory Procession:	Jo/Terry	Alison/Dan	Max/Terry
Minister of Communion:	John/Frank	Anne/Terry	Dan/Frank
Meals Clean Up:	All Members urged to assist.		