



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

March 2019

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 Susan Alberti.

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 Christi 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.

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI

Archbishop Peter has accepted the Serra Club of Melbourne's invitation to be the Principal Celebrant at the Anniversary Mass "subject to unexpected circumstances." The Club was Chartered on 28th January 1970. Judge Arthur Adams was the President when the club was first formed in 1968, and Frank James was appointed President in 1970. Frank, as most members would know, was instrumental in bringing Serra to Australia.

The first meeting to form a Serra Club was held at the Elizabeth Hotel Melbourne, in February 1968, following Mass at St Francis church Melbourne.

While membership is low at the moment, it is with a great deal of pride that members can reflect on the many initiatives that Serra has been responsible for over the fifty years since Charter. In 1968 Vocations were still fairly high, and it may have seemed to be unnecessary to be concerned about this, but things very quickly deteriorated and the situation changed fairly rapidly. Sadly District 89, which once saw twelve clubs chartered, now only has four clubs in existence, though plans are in hand to try and recommence a club in Ballarat.

Since 2014, this club has seen the death of six of our members, and the retirement of seven more due to age or ill health, which demonstrates the urgent need to recruit new and younger members to all clubs, as the current International President, Mario Biscardi, made clear at the Serra International Convention in 2018. Everybody is aware of this situation, but we cannot leave the task to someone else, because someone else is YOU. SCANZSPAC President, Anne Larkins, presented a plan at the February meeting, with her ideas on how we can achieve an increase, but it involves each member of Serra, both in District 89 and District 92, to really get behind the steps she has outlined, or within a few years Serra in Australia will cease to exist.

Anne presented a Strategic Plan over the next five years as formulated by Serra International, that if followed, could achieve this goal. (Copy attached).

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Bernie Roney, Past President of the Serra Club of Bendigo, has accepted the position of Governor for District 89. He was installed at the District Meeting in February. In accepting the position, he asked for prayers that he would be able to fulfil the role, and thanked outgoing Governor, Mary O'Connor who was appointed in 2014. Bernie, along with some other Serrans, has approached Bishop Paul Bird, Ballarat Diocese, to endeavour to reform a club in that Diocese. They received a warm welcome from the Bishop, and hope and pray that they achieve success.

CONGRATULATORY CARDS

An initiative that commenced with the very first meeting in 1968, resolved in sending congratulatory cards to priests and religious on the significant anniversaries. The Melbourne Club has now sent many thousands of cards, and makes enquiries from the dioceses and religious orders, so that as many as possible receive cards, no doubt some will be missed, which is unfortunate, but those who do receive them often respond with grateful thanks.

JUNE 2019 MEETING

As some of the club members will be attending the Serra International Convention in June, the Board has decided to hold the Executive meeting a week earlier, on 12th June, and cancel the general meeting due on 26th June, which normally see the installation of the Executive for 2019-2020. This will now take place on 24th July, and is the occasion when prospective Serrans and guests are most welcome.

BISHOP PETER ELLIOTT

Bishop Peter, who has been a staunch supporter of Serra for years, indeed since he was a young priest in the role of Secretary to Bishop John Kelly, has now retired. The club extends its grateful thanks to him. Bishop Peter has assisted the club where possible and has accepted the role of guest speaker on several occasions.

Father Brendan Hayes, Parish Priest of Toorak and Armadale Parishes, has been appointed Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Region.

CHRIST THE PRIEST

The Confraternity of Christ the Priest, has celebrated 65th Anniversary of its founding, on 23rd January 2019, Brother Vincent Brooks was guest speaker at the November meeting of the club.

VALDA MATHERS

The club was saddened to receive the news that Valda's husband, Noel, died, and was buried from St Patrick's Church Mentone, on 12th March. Valda was club president from 2000 to 2002, and Governor of District 89 from 2002 to 2004. Valda was the first woman to become President of the Melbourne Club, and the first woman to be elected as District Governor. The club is indebted to Valda for the leadership she offered.

Please pray for Cardinal George Pell and all who have been abused.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

March	27th	St. Catherine's Church, 2 Buchan Street, Moorabbin
April	24th	Rosary 6.15 pm. Mass 6.30 pm. followed by
May	22nd	Dinner Meeting in the Sweeney Centre.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

March	St Leonard's Glen Waverley	9.15am
April	St Joseph's Elsternwick	10.00am
May	Stella Maris Beaumaris	9.15am

MASS ROSTER**Reader:*****March******April******May***

Max

John

Dan

Prayers of the Faithful:

Frank

Jo

Terry

Offertory Procession:

Alison/Dan

Max/Terry

Frank/Jo

Minister of Communion:

Anne/Terry

Dan/Frank

John/Anne

Meals Clean Up: All Members urged to assist.