



SERRA CLUB of MELBOURNE Newsletter

May 2019

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.

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.

SALE DINNER

The Serra Club of Sale has once again held its annual Social Day, on Monday 15th April, involving members of the club, and visiting Serrans, priests of the Diocese and clergy from other religions. This social day is held on the Monday prior to Easter, as priests of the Diocese are gathering in Sale for the Mass of the Oils on the Tuesday.

The gathering also celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the charter of the Club, at the Dinner in the evening, which was attended by over 100 people. This was, as usual, a very happy occasion, and prizes were presented to various winners, Recognition was then expressed of the courage of the initial parishioners who accepted the invitation from Bishop Arthur Fox to attend a meeting with the aim of bringing Serra International to the Sale Diocese. Phil Connors told how four men, Frank James, Bill Pringle, Harry Thomsen and Ralph Sierakowski, from the Melbourne Club made the trip to Sale and met with the Bishop, Mgr Noel Daly, Fr Kooloos and nine men from Sale on 18th May 1978.

They outlined the reason for Serra, and Bishop Fox was very enthusiastic, and asked Mgr Daly to arrange a meeting. 250 invitations were sent to parishioners, and priests and religious. On 9th July 1979, the first public meeting was addressed by the Serra Club of Melbourne members.

An interim Committee was formed at a meeting on 13th July, and the first General Meeting was held on 20th July, which marked the first meeting of the Serra Club of Sale – in formation.

The new club met twice monthly, and members of the Melbourne Club made the commitment to attend all these meetings.

The Serra Club of Sale was Chartered on 28th April 1979 with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Arthur Fox, Bishop John Kelly and the newly appointed Bishop Noel Daly. Twenty-four men were inducted into the Club during the Mass. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. Tony Manion, the Charter President, expressed appreciation for the invaluable help and encouragement given by the members of the Melbourne Club, who as I said, made the trip to Sale for every meeting. Bishop Fox was delighted to announce at the meeting, the appointment of Mgr Noel Daly as the new Bishop of Sandhurst, and the appointment of Fr Peter Bickley as Chaplain.

Sale set a record for the quickest Charter of a club, certainly within Australia, and I think, in the world.

Sale, like all other clubs, has struggled at times for members, but currently you are doing very well.

Our thanks must go to the Charter members for their belief in Serra, but also to those who have succeeded them, and a very special acknowledgement to Tony Manion, Bill Henebery, and Ann Broberg, who accepted the role of Governor of Serra District 89.

Congratulations to the Serra Club of Sale, and to those who have given so much to foster and sustain Vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

On the Saturday prior to this celebration, the members of the SCANZSPAC Board met in Sale for their quarterly meeting, and members of the Sale Club were invited to be observers at their meeting, and the President Anne Larkins, and Secretary Frank McCulloch extended their visit so as to attend the celebratory Mass at the Cathedral on the Sunday and the gathering on the Monday.

CHAPLAIN

The Serra Club of Melbourne is very indebted to the Club Chaplain, Fr Gerard Dowling, for his ongoing support of Serra. The Club is blessed to be able to commence each meeting with the celebration of Mass, and Fr Dowling always gives a short homily which is invariably of great value to the members.

Fr Dowling could perhaps have the distinction of appointing himself as Chaplain to the club.

Br Michael McMurray CCS had been the Spiritual Director of the club for a number of years, but in April 2002 he was transferred to San Isidore, in Wagga Wagga, to guide the students there in their quest to become priests or brothers of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest.

Peter Larkins and Phillip Connors approached Fr Les Tomlinson, parish priest of St Kevin's Ormond, and asked would he accept the role of Club Chaplain, to which he readily agreed and took up the position at the July 2002 meeting. However, in late 2002 it was announced that Fr Tomlinson had been appointed as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, to succeed Fr Gerard Dowling, who had been Dean for several years.

During his time as Dean, Fr Dowling had provided a barbeque at St Patrick's on Melbourne Cup Day, and had asked members of Serra to assist him with this. Father Dowling had had contact with Serra for many years, and was the celebrant at the first Mass to honour the parents and relatives of priests and religious. This was at St Michael's North Melbourne on Trinity Sunday 1986. He also concelebrated with Archbishop George Pell on the occasion that this Mass was transferred to the Cathedral in 1999.

During a phone conversation in 2002, with Phillip Connors in reference to the barbeque on Melbourne Cup Day, he said that he would be retiring from the position of Dean of the Cathedral at the end of the year, and Fr Tomlinson would be the incoming Dean. On being told that he was our Chaplain, and we would therefore be losing him, Fr Dowling offered to become Club Chaplain and assumed this role in January 2003, and has been in this role for many years.

Father always says that Serrans must never underestimate the value of their role in encouraging and sustaining vocations to the priesthood and religious life. There are a lot of priests who do not get the encouragement and support that they need.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

SATURDAY MORNING MASS for VOCATIONS

May	Stella Maris Beaumaris	9.15am
June	St Peter's Clayton	9.00am
July	St Finbar's East Brighton	9.15am

MASS ROSTER

	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>
Reader:	Dan	CANCELLED	Anne
Prayers of the Faithful:	Terry		John
Offertory Procession:	Frank/Jo		Guests
Minister of Communion:	John/Anne		Celebrants
Meals Clean Up:	All Members urged to assist.		