



Serra GB

focus

Christmas 2025



“When Christians celebrate the Nativity, they are celebrating an event that changed the course of history and permanently transformed the DNA of human society.”

G.K. Chesterton

*“With every best wish for a Happy and Holy Christmas
and a Good New Year”*

To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.

To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.

To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

Consider joining our Serran apostolate contact the editor Alex Duncan: serra.glasgow@aol.com

Under the patronages of the His Eminence Most Reverend Vincent Cardinal Nichols and

Most Reverend William Nolan Archbishop of Glasgow

For more information [visit us](#)



Christmas message from Chris Kelly President of Serra Great Britain

As President of Serra Great Britain and member of the Serra International Board I wish to extend to you and your families the season's greetings.

At this time, hopes of peace in the Holy Land the birthplace of our Lord is at a crucial stage with a fragile ceasefire in place. We can only pray that the ceasefire will hold and peace once again reigns in that holiest of places.

We also pray for peace to all the people who live in the Ukraine and the war-torn parts of the world where the innocent suffer at the hands of tyrannous regimes.

The Serra family in Great Britain remains small but positive about the work we are doing to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please pray for an increase in membership that we may extend our programmes and promote vocations more widely.

Finally, we keep in our thoughts and prayers all our priests and religious brothers and sisters, those who suffer poverty and strife, those who are troubled in mind and body.

*I wish all a
Holy and Happy
Christmas and a great
New Year.*



Pope St John Paul thoughts on Christmas

The Christmas tree:

The message of the christmas tree is consequently that life stays 'evergreen' if we make a gift of it: not so much of material things, but of life itself in friendship and sincere affection, in fraternal help and forgiveness, in time shared and reciprocal listening.

The Nativity scene:

Small or large, simple or elaborate, it is a familiar and most vivid representation of Christmas. The Nativity scene is a feature of our culture and art, but above all it is a sign of faith in God, who in Bethlehem came 'and dwelt among us.'

The Christmas wafer:

A polish tradition. The Christmas wafer is exactly the bread of reconciliation. God comes to man, God offers us reconciliation with himself.... And from here he arises, as it were man's first response. If God is one with us, if Christ is born in Bethlehem, then I, as a human, must be reconciled with my brother.

The empty seat at the table:

It is a beautiful custom to leave one seat free at the table, for someone who may come from the road, for a stranger. These simple gestures mean a lot. They symbolize the goodness of the human heart, which sees in another person – especially in a person in need – the presence of Christ and calls to bring a brother and sister into the atmosphere of family warmth, according to the old saying: 'Guest at home – God at home'.

The baby in a crib:

A tiny newborn child, whom the hands of a woman wrap in poor cloths and lay in a manger. this is God's sign. The centuries and the millennia pass, but the sign remains, and it remains valid for us too – the men and women of the third millennium. It is a sign of hope for the whole human family; a sign of peace for those suffering from conflicts of every kind; a sign of freedom for the poor and oppressed; a sign of mercy for those caught up in the vicious circle of sin; a sign of love and consolation for those who feel lonely and abandoned. A small and fragile sign, a humble and quiet sign, but one filled with the power of God who out of love gave us His son.

Serra, Scotus and The Immaculate Conception.

Junípero Serra was a master of the theology of John Duns Scotus. He held the prestigious position of Professor of Theology at the Lullian University in Majorca before embarking on his missionary work in the Americas. His theological expertise in Scotus' philosophical work inspired his missionary zeal, his motto "Siempre Adelante, always forward, ever onward" and his endurance, commitment to spreading Christianity in Mexico and California.



Bl. John Duns Scotus

(1266; - 1308)

Franciscan Priest and theologian was the first to explain, coherently, the Apostolic Faith in the Immaculate Conception as something entirely coherent with Christ's universal primacy and mediation. Since his time the Magisterium of the Church has

solemnly defined this doctrine and declared it to belong to the deposit of the Faith, which Christ entrusted to His Apostles.

He was born in Duns in the Scottish Borders, in late 1265 or early 1266. His name John, the Scot from Duns. Following his education John, the 15 year-old entered the Franciscan Order in Dumfries well below the canonical age of 18.

The 8th of November is the liturgical memorial of Blessed John Duns Scotus. Pope Benedict XVI, in his apostolic letter on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of his death, given in Rome on October 28, 2008, described him as *a most learned and devout man*. John was ordained a priest at the age of 25, on March 17th, 1291. He was immediately given the faculties to hear confession, which was given to those trusted for their sound doctrine and good advice.

On 26th of March 1305 he became Regent Master of the Franciscan school at the university of Paris, where John wrote extensively on his Christocentric theology, in which the Incarnation of the Word is presented as the highest of God's works, willed from the beginning of creation, and not merely as a remedy for sin. In July of 1307 John left Paris for Cologne to reorganise the Friars as well as to confront heresy. Due to the effort he exerted on himself, he became so vulnerable to disease and died on 8th November 1308, just 43 years old.

Pope John Paul II confirmed the cult of Blessed John Duns Scotus on 20th March 1993 When referring to the teaching of the Immaculate Conception, which John defended with utmost force, This great theologian teaches us how important it is to be faithful to the Bible and the the Church. Traditionally it is said that on Christmas

night in 1281, John had a vision of the Child Jesus appearing in his arms, reflecting and firing his love for Jesus and his Blessed Mother. It needs to be said that he was famous for his defence of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The observance of this feast and dogma of the Immaculate Conception began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854.

Several years later, in 1858, the Blessed Mother gave her name to St. Bernadette at Lourdes stating,

"I am the Immaculate Conception."

This dogma is a result of the central position of Christ in creation. Hence, for Christ to be the perfect mediator of redemption, he must have mediated that redemption perfectly to at least one person. Indeed Christ did, to his Mother, whom he protected from all stain of sin, even original sin, since it is more perfect to protect from sin rather than it is to free from sin after it has been contracted. This doctrine John staunchly defended in Paris in the first months of 1307.

In order to appreciate John's singular contribution on this point let us cherish what he wrote in a lecture:



Christ was the most perfect mediator. Therefore He exercised the highest degree of mediation in favour of another person. He could not be a most perfect mediator and could not repair the effects of sin to the highest degree if He did not preserve his Mother from original sin. Therefore, since He was the most perfect mediator regarding the person of His Mother, it follows that he preserved her from original sin.

Pope Benedict tells us in his apostolic letter on the 700th anniversary of the Death of Blessed John:

After having proven with various arguments taken from theological reason, the very fact that the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from original sin, he was absolutely ready also to reject this conviction should it not be in harmony with the authority of the Church, saying: "We can with probability attribute to Mary all that has the greatest perfection, provided it is not opposed to the authority of the Church or the Scriptures."

Let us pray to *Doctor subtilis*, "The Subtle Doctor"
Blessed John Duns Scotus:

Lord God, source of all wisdom, in Blessed John Duns Scotus, priest and champion of the Immaculate Virgin, you have given us a master of life and thought. Grant that, enlightened by his example and nourished by his doctrine, we may remain faithful followers of Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our annual Vigil for Vocations with our University students



Our sincere thanks to our host Canon Conroy, chaplain to the university who was ever so gracious, assisting us with the liturgy which commenced with our Mass for Vocations.



He provided seminarians as servers, organists and a young lady leading us in our “Rosary for vocations.” Following our speaker’s personal reflections, our Vigil concluded with Benediction and Night prayer.



Our invited guest speaker was seminarian Patryk Solik. Patryk, from Poland, who reflected on his call to become a priest from a very early age. Now a fourth year seminarian and studying at the university for the coming year, has come to us and will with the help of God be ordained for our archdiocese.

There were many young people in attendance and one in particular when asked of her experience, enthusiastically said “Most enjoyable, the time went so quickly.” She didn’t say prayerfully but we know what she meant.

As Serrans we are often asked “Are your prayers for vocations being answered?” My personal thoughts are “Yes.” Our Lord answers by providing priest and religious from other countries while we continue to pray for more vocations for our own city and country .

“Pray to the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

The Serra GB National AGM Sunday 5th October



Thank goodness for our virtual meeting. We were able to avoid a rather nasty piece of weather which hit our country during that weekend.

We must recognise two factors which hinder our work in promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Firstly, attracting new members particularly younger committed Catholics. In many cases younger potential members who have families may find it difficult to find the time to support our apostolate. That can be difficult considering the inflated costs of just living and supporting their families which is foremost in their daily living and secondly the average age of our members. This seems to be a common factor as with other voluntary organisations in attracting younger and new people.

Having said that the enthusiasm which came across at our meeting showed a great deal of vibrancy and commitment to our work. Our members enjoy the friendship generated at the local level and gain many good vocation promotional ideas and activities at our meetings. Prayer is most important in our vocation’s activities and while potential new members cannot participate at our meetings, our programmes reach out to our parishes and indeed our educational establishments. They seem to adopt that ever so necessary prayer opportunity.

The sharing of our programmes between clubs and at a national level are communicated by several methods, our website, our focus newsletter and other platforms, all useful tools to create ideas and good practices.

We shared many of our vocational programmes from parish vigils, schools and universities and even our outdoor pursuits. The objective being not only to share but encourage action by our vocation’s projects throughout our country. We also shared ideas for internal club meetings activities namely to grow in faith and indeed knowledge and understanding of our faith.

Our website and Focus newsletter reach many hundreds if not thousands of God’s people at home and abroad and spreading that ever so important need for prayer.

We may be small in numbers, the work we do is massive but could be improved with a few more of God’s people to join our apostolate and encourage the necessary vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.

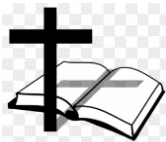
Our members agreed our new Serra GB board members for the next year. We also agreed to hold our conference next year on Sunday 4th October 2026 using the Zoom platform.

Our meeting closed with our prayers for vocations.

**Mary. Mother of vocations. Pray for us.
St Junipero Serra. Pray for us,**

November the month of the Holy Souls

*In the month of November,
the Serrans of Great Britain, during our masses
and club meetings, recognised individually by name
and prayed for all our deceased members. We also
prayed for all our priests and religious brothers
and sisters who had given their lives
in the service of Our Lord.*



*May our Lord welcome them into His company.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

A Serran “Rosary for vocations”

can be downloaded [here](#); or our [web site](#): resources page.



**Pray the Rosary with
the intercession after
each decade.**

**“Lord grant us many
holy priests and
consecrated men and
women and faithful
married couples”.**

**Finish with Our
Serran prayers for
vocations:**

Serran prayers for vocations.

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase in labourers for Your Church, fellow labourers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Serran Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son, supreme and eternal priest, for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind: grant that those whom He has hosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries, may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received.

Serra International Rosary for Vocations



*On the last Saturday of every month, you are invited to
join with representatives from America, Europe, Asia and
throughout the Serra world in a recitation of the Rosary
for vocation. The Serra International Rosary continues
Saturday Dec 27th at 2.00pm GMT continuing on the last
Saturdays of every month. Join us free, use Access
Code: 314-315-91. at:*

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981>

“Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations?”



In Serra we are strong advocates of
“Adoration for Vocations” before the
blessed Sacrament during our Holy
Hours, or Vocations Vigils.

Eucharistic adoration can be a time of
silence away from the madding
crowd, a time of contemplation, a
time to just think and pray for our
families, our priests, deacons and
those thinking of that vocation to the

priesthood or consecrated life. It is during these quiet and
prayerful times away from the hustle and bustle of everyday
life that you can escape and concentrate, with the help of the
Holy Spirit, on prayer, which will assist in solving our daily
problems.

Does your parish have adoration or Holy Hours for
vocations? Do we pray the Rosary for vocations before or
after our daily mass?

*“We must speak to God as a friend speaks to his friend,
servant to his master; now asking some favour,
acknowledging our faults, and telling him all that concerns
us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires, and in
all things seeking his counsel.”*

..... St. Ignatius of Loyola

Get Started! You can browse through our resources page
on our [website](#), to help you focus, particularly on your
vocation in life or that of religious vocations, during that
special time with Our Lord.

Download and print off for your own or your parish use.

Encourage prayer for all vocations.



The Serran Magazine

The September 2025 issue of The Serran celebrates 90 years of Serra International.

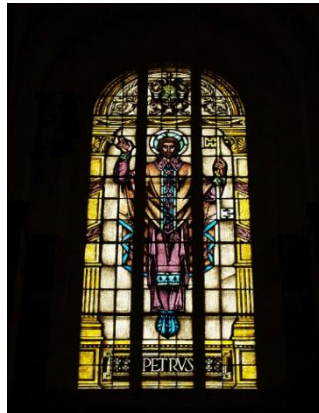
Readers will find stories from around

the world, spanning Mexico, Thailand, Hong Kong, Great Britain and more, showcasing how local clubs are building up vocations.

[September issue](#)

82nd International Convention

Join our Serrans from around the world on 9th-12th July 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
More information to follow



The Serra Meets programme is now a routine webinar broadcast on the second Saturday of each month throughout 2025/26 with virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic

of Catholic vocations. Serra Meets broadcasts can be accessed at [Serra MEETS](#). All past talks are recorded and posted on the Serra International You tube channel, click this. [link](#) and make your choice. Patterned after a regular Serra meetings, we will open and close with prayer, feature a notable keynote speaker and follow with a short business topic.



Serra Connects

has been introduced to bring Serrans around the world, to share in their own language, and make them feel part of the universal family of Serra International.

We will share news, ideas and content that will help us get to know each other better and help us be united in our mission. We hope that the [Serra Connects here:](#) can help achieve these goals by creating a two-way flow of news and ideas: from the Leadership of Serra International to individual Serra Clubs scattered around the world to:

Serra Great Britain

In this, the 5th edition of the Serra Connects we share one of our recent events, namely our 'walks for vocations' which took place back in June. Already we have had requests for more information from various parts of the Serra world.

The Holy Father's message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Pope Francis in his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2025 on the theme "*Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace*" asks us to be pilgrims and builders of peace, that, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek, will never be in vain.

Read the [Holy Father's message](#) for this World day of prayer for vocations.... [here](#)

An opportunity to join us internationally

It's a Joke

John was sitting outside his local pub one day, enjoying a quiet pint and generally feeling good about himself, when a nun suddenly appears at his table and starts decrying the evils of drink. "You should be ashamed of yourself young man! Drinking is a Sin! Alcohol is the blood of the devil!" Now John gets pretty annoyed about this, and goes on the offensive. "How do you know this, Sister?" "My Mother Superior told me so." "But have you ever had a drink yourself? How can you be sure that what you are saying is right?" "Don't be ridiculous--of course I have never taken alcohol myself" "Then let me buy you a drink - if you still believe afterwards that it is evil I will give up drink for life" "How could I, a Nun, sit outside this public house drinking?!" "I'll get the barman to put it in a teacup for you, then no one will ever know." The Nun reluctantly agrees, so John goes inside to the bar. "Another pint for me, and a triple vodka on the rocks", then he lowers his voice and says to the barman "and could you put the vodka in a teacup?" The barman "Oh no! It's not that Nun again is it?"

Serra clubs of Serra Great Britain.
**You can contact us by email or
telephone for information.**

District 60
Liverpool

We meet at 6.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Cenacle Convent, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Liverpool L15 6TW.

email; serra.liverpool@gmail.com tel: 0151 724 6249.

Manchester

Contact email; serramanchester@gmail.com

tel; 01625 477 215

North Cheshire

Contact

email; serra.northcheshire@outlook.com.

tel; 0161 973 3339

South Lancs

For further information on Serra club of South Lancs

email; secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk

or tel: 0151 724 6249

District 62

South Hertfordshire.

We meet 2nd Tuesday of every month (except August)
7.30pm at Our Lady and St. Michael's Church, Crown Rise, Garston, Herts WD25 0NE.

email; serrasouthherts.co.uk tel; 01923 661692.

District 63

Dunkeld

We meet 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm with Mass at
7pm at The Immaculate Conception, Lochee,
Dundee DD2 3AP

email; serra.dunkeld@hotmail.com tel; 01382 322920

Glasgow

We meet 1st and 3rd Thursdays, August to June at 10.00am,
Our Lady of Lourdes, thereafter at Millhill, Cardonald and
email; serra.glasgow@aol.com tel; 0141 571 8313.

Paisley

For further information on Serra club of Paisley

email; secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk

or phone: 07754 514318

**Mary. Mother of
vacations. Pray for us.**

**St Junipero Serra.
Pray for us.**



**Are you interested in supporting
and fostering
VOCATIONS**

**To the priesthood and
consecrated religious life?**



**Do you want to enhance your
own
SPIRITUAL LIFE
in the company of others?**

**Do you see the need for
PRAYER?
for an increase in priestly
vocations?**

**If the answer is Yes! Contact
your nearest Serra club.
Send us Oh Lord many active
lay people to support us in
our prayer and work for
more vocations as priests and
religious brothers and sisters.**

