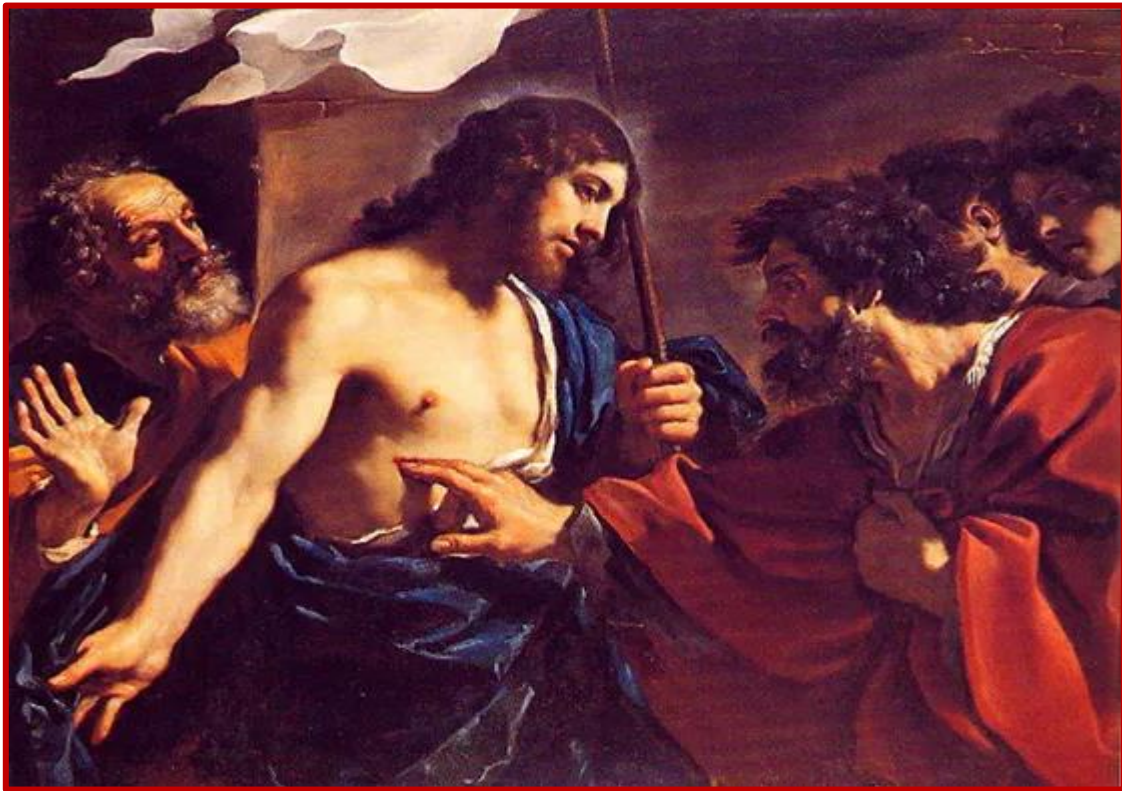




Serra GB

focus

June 2023



“My Lord and my God” John: 28

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: <http://www.serragreatbritain.org.uk>

“My Lord and my God”



Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ *John 27-29*

I have a friend a Serran friend, a friend of some 37 years since the time I joined Serra Glasgow. He was the president in that year and as with all our members you do become friends, like minded friends working for the same church needs. Perhaps by chance or not, his name is Tommy. During the consecration and while receiving the eucharist you could hear Tommy say quietly “My Lord and My God.” I didn’t think too much about that, just considering that that was his way Tommy was being respectful and prayerful. More recently, I understand his thoughts which lead me to writing this article based on the readings of John 27-29. From time to time, as with doubting Thomas, we all have doubts about our faith. Perhaps this *Extracts from the Holy Father’s homily of Divine Mercy Sunday* explains and reassures us mere mortals of our Lord’s Mercy and love for all of us. Thank you, Tommy, for inciting this article.

His Mercy Endures

Jesus’ merciful words to a doubting St. Thomas reminds us that the Lord does not expect us to be “perfect Christians.” Instead, Jesus wants us “to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief.

In his reflections, Pope Francis spoke to a large crowd gathered in St. Peter’s Square on Divine Mercy Sunday about the gospel account of Jesus’ encounter with Thomas in that Upper Room. Thomas, was not present the first time the resurrected Jesus appeared to the apostles, but was there in that Upper Room.

“We too struggle at times like that disciple: How can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better, Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning,” he continued.

“But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians.”

The pope went on to speak in strong terms against an attitude of righteousness and self-assurance.

“I tell you: I am afraid when I see a Christian, some associations of Christians who believe themselves to be perfect. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn’t right,” the pope observed.

“No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt, and darkness.

“The Gospel shows us Thomas’ ‘crisis’ to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith,” Pope Francis continued. “Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time.”

“Dear brothers and sisters, it is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!”

Pope Francis went on to highlight the fact that, after appearing to the apostles while Thomas was not present, he returns a second time.

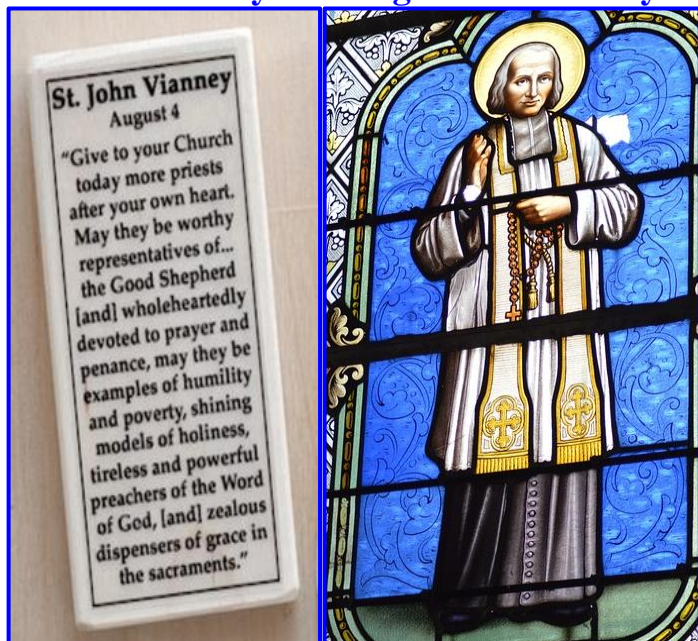
“Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: When the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are in doubt, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back,” the pope said.

“Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties,”

...Pope Francis. The Vatican Sunday 16th April, 2023

St John Vianney

August 4th feast day



St. John Vianney, Saint Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, , also called **Curé d'Ars**, was born in France May 8th 1876 died August 4, 1859, A French priest who was renowned as a confessor and for his supernatural powers. **He is the patron saint of parish priests.**

Because of the French Revolution, during that Reign of Terror, Vianney received little education he was forced to make his first communion and confession secretly and was impressed by the heroism of the nuns and priests who risked their lives for their faith. He felt called to pursue the priesthood but struggled with Latin and needed private tutoring to supplement his lack of formal education. His studies were interrupted when he was drafted into Napoleon's armies in 1809. Whether deliberately or by serendipity, he was separated from his draft group and ended up in a rural village with a number of army deserters, where he was forced to hide until the decree of amnesty for all deserters in 1810. He was ordained in 1815 and was made assistant priest at Écully, France.

In 1818 he became priest of the small village of Ars, which he made a model parish and from which reports of his holiness and his supernatural powers soon spread. He was known for his devotion to the Virgin Mary and to St. Philomena and was dedicated to the sacrament of reconciliation for his parishioners. From 1824 he suffered attacks that he believed were caused by the Devil, who allegedly on one occasion set fire to Vianney's bed. By 1827 Ars had become a pilgrimage site, and, every year from 1845 until Vianney's death, about 20,000 persons visited Ars to see Vianney and especially to make their confession to him. The holy curé spent as many as 12 or 15 hours daily in his confessional. He was canonized by Pope Pius XI. May 31, 1925.

Vigil for vocations



You could almost say that our Vigil for vocations has a season. Following Lent and a period dedicated to Stations for vocations and other lenten programmes we follow on into Easter and

particularly the period around Good Shepherd Sunday when the Holy Father sends his Message for vocations to the world. Scotland the originator of this form of prayer for vocations has been unfailing for some 34 years with the exception of one year out for that Covid period and is joined with our other clubs throughout Great Britain and beyond to support our Holy Father's message for the 60th "World day of prayer for vocations." The Vigils and our Holy hours of course continue throughout the year and again around vocations week in September time.

Our vigil this year which is similar to those around Great Britain on the Holy Father's theme of "Vocation: Grace and Mission" started with our Mass for vocations followed by Rosary for vocations with periods of silent contemplation during adoration and intertwined with our speakers focusing on religious vocations and diocesan priestly vocations concluding with Night prayer and Benediction. In Glasgow we sincerely thank our Chaplain Fr Ross Campbell Vocations director and University chaplain our speakers Sr. Anna Marie McGurn (Alma Mercy Sister) and Rev Fr John McGinley, Archdiocese of Glasgow who both reflected on vocation as a general term and indeed their own particular personal call to serve as sister and priest.

In his message the Holy Father concluded with these words:

May the prayer that Saint Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Vocations, 11 April 1964, accompany us on our journey:

"O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls, you called the apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all... Open before them the horizons of the entire world... By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' .



Please remember in your prayers Angela Guly who died recently at the age of 93 having spent over 30 years as a Member of Serra in London and laterly in our South Herts Club. May she rest in peace in the caring arms of our Lord.

60th World day of prayer for Vocations “Vocation: Grace and Mission”

Pope Francis in his message for the 60th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission," tells us “Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. The Holy father concludes.....

"Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!" Grace and Mission is a gift and a task a source of new life and a true joy in our families our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life and our ecclesial associations and movements.

Read the Holy [Father's message](#) for The 60th world day of prayer for vocations.

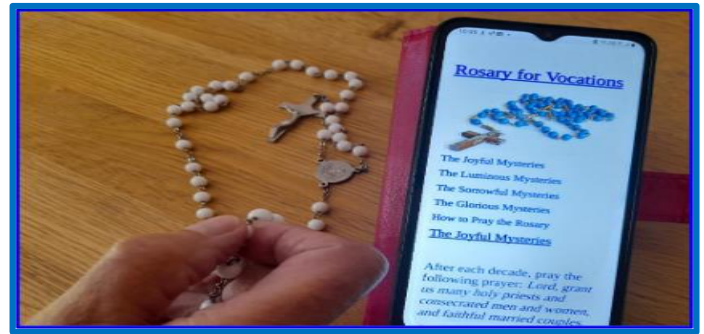
The Global Celebration of Young People takes place annually on the Solemnity of Christ the King. The next international World Youth Day: Lisbon, Portugal - August 1-6, 2023 in every diocese and community around the world.



World Youth Day, 2023:
"Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39.)

The themes should be seen as one unit that emerged from Pope Francis' Christus Vivit and his call to infuse the Church's ministries with young people with a vocational perspective that compels us to put our faith into action.

[Registration details](#)



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”

Mary. Mother of vocations. Pray for us.

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.

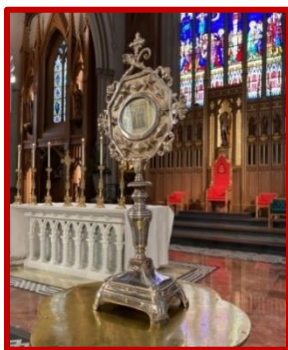
Serran Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations

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 the world in a recitation of the Rosary for vocation. The Serra International Rosary continues Saturday, June 24th at 2.00pm GMT continuing throughout 2023 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?”

Does your parish have adoration or Holy Hours for vocations?

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 the solving our daily problems.

You can also 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.

A Celebration

On Thursday 4th May 2023, on the feast of The English Martyrs, The Most Reverend Malcolm Mc Mahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool concelebrated the Eucharist together with Fr Ron Johnson our Vocations director. Joining us were the Sisters of Our lady of the Cenacle and Liverpool Serrans. The event noted the 66th anniversary of our founding and in memory of all our deceased Serrans. During a moving homily the Archbishop wove together the story of the English martyrs with the reading from Acts describing the stoning of St Stephen. He related these to the sacrifices of all deceased Serrans in their dedication to the cause of vocations. The well attended gathering was followed by a very pleasant evening of food and good chatter. Among our guests was Sr Lynne FCJ vocations director of her order who enjoyed her introduction to Serra and anticipated further contact. This annual event is undoubtedly the highlight of our Serran Calendar.

An opportunity to join us internationally



The Serra Meets programme is now a routine webinar broadcast on the second Saturday of each month throughout 2023 with virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic of Catholic vocations.

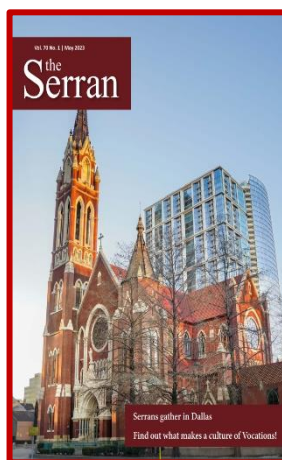
Our next Meets, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, 2023, at 5.00pm GMT. Serra Meets broadcasts can be accessed at [Serra MEETS](#). All past talks are recorded and posted on the Serra International YouTube channel, click this [link](#) and make your choice. Patterned after a regular Serra meetings, Serra Meets events will open and close with prayer, featuring a notable keynote speaker, followed by a short business topic. Serra Meets is hosted by the US Council of Serra International



80th Serra International Convention

Will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
22-25 June 2023.

Our Convention Venue: The Empress Hotel and Convention Center in the heart of Chiang Mai, opposite the Catholic Mission Center and surrounded by the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral. Register directly with the Serra International, Chicago office, . A Few of Our Featured Speakers include Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, President of the Permanent Interdicasterial Commission for Consecrated Religious. Charles Cardinal Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar; President, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. Bishop Francis Xavier Vira Arpondratana, Bishop of Chiang Mai
Register with Serra International [here](#)



The New Serran Magazine

This issue features coverage of the highly anticipated new volume of The Serran now available to read online! [HERE](#)
In this volume, we discuss what makes a culture of vocations, new cultural outreach, and feature keynote talks from the 2023 Serra Rally in Dallas. Plus, check out 10 things you might not know about Serra.

It's a Joke

In the middle of a forest, there was a hunter who was suddenly confronted by a huge, mean bear.

In his fear, all attempts to shoot the bear were unsuccessful.

Finally, he turned and ran as fast as he could.

The hunter ran and ran and ran, until he ended up at the edge of a very steep cliff.

His hopes were dim.

Seeing no way out of his predicament, and with the bear closing in rather quickly, the hunter got down on his knees, opened his arms, and exclaimed, "Dear Lord! Please give this bear some religion!"

The skies darkened and there was lightning in the air. Just a few feet short of the hunter, the bear came to an abrupt stop, and glanced around, somewhat confused.

Suddenly, the bear looked up into the sky and said, "Thank you, Lord for the food I'm about to receive..."

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

District 60

Liverpool

We meet at 6.30pm 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 Lincs

For further information on Serra club of South Lincs

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 last 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

University of Glasgow Chaplaincy (as programmed)

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 vocations. 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 priests
and religious.**

