



Serra GB

focus

June 2025



“He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 9:2)

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.

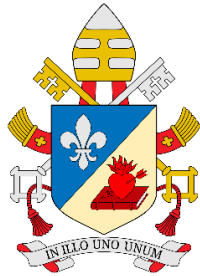
To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

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>

“Habemus Papam! Leo XIV By the grace of God, Pope.”



His first words “May peace be with all of you.”

" We still hear in our ears the weak but always courageous voice of Pope Francis who blessed us, united hand in hand with God, let us advance together."

In his first words Pope Leo XIV spoke of peace, Peace be with you all! This is the first greeting spoken by the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for God's flock. I too would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, and among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world.” Building bridges and helping people who are suffering, his words reflecting and perhaps suggesting he would continue following his predecessor Pope Francis, whom Leo XIV thanked in his remarks.

June 29th The Feast of Sts Peter and Paul



Ordinations in St Peter's basilica in Rome

The solemnity of St. Peter and Paul honours the martyrdom of the two saints, sometime between AD 64 and AD 68. While the church recognizes that they may not have died on the same day, the celebration is of ancient Christian origin and the date selected being the anniversary of their deaths.

Tradition says that this is the day that they were both martyred in Rome by Emperor Nero. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, Peter being the first Pope and Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there, Peter suffered martyrdom under Nero. He was buried on the hill of the Vatican where excavations revealed his tomb on the very site of the Basilica of St. Peter. St. Paul was beheaded in the Via Ostia on the spot where now stands the Basilica bearing his name. Down the centuries Christian people in their thousands have gone on pilgrimage to the tombs of these Apostles. In the second and third centuries the Roman Church already stood pre-eminent by reason of her apostolicity, the infallible truth of her teaching and her two great figures, Sts. Peter and Paul.

Traditionally a time for ordinations to the priesthood often held on this day, the ordinations are a time of profound significance and celebrating them alongside the feast of these foundational figures emphasizes the continuity of the Church's mission and the priesthood's role in that mission.

The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29th, especially when coupled with ordinations, symbolizes the ongoing mission of the Church and the importance of the priesthood in fulfilling that mission.

“Let's pray for more priests to fulfil that mission”

Our Vigil for Vocations



knows the human heart does not abandon us in our uncertainty, " said the Pope" He wants us to know that we are loved, called and sent as pilgrims of hope."The Holy Father urged young people to look to the saints to recognize that they are the " now of God" since youth is not an in-between time.

Every vocational call, he said, ignites in us a desire to love others and serve them, rather than a means of self-promotion. At certain points in life, added the Pope, God calls people to choose a path, whether it be to family life, the priesthood, or religious life."Every vocation is inspired by hope marked by confident trust in God's providence," he said. "Vocations mature through the daily effort to be faithful to the Gospel and through prayer, discernment and service."

Pope Francis urged young people to take the time to listen to God's voice in prayer, even amid the constant bombardment of daily life and external pressures .He said it takes courage to pause, to pray and be open to God's dreams for our lives."Prayerful recollection," he said, "helps us to realize that all of us can be pilgrims of hope if we make our lives a gift, above all by placing ourselves at the service of those who live on the world's material and existential peripheries."

Every particular vocation, added the pope, is an expression of our overall Christian vocation to be Christ's presence where His light and consolation are most needed.

The Holy Father went on to invite pastoral ministers and vocations directors to patiently accompany young people in their journey to discover their vocation, listening respectfully and offering wise guidance."A vocation is never a treasure stored away in the heart, he said. "Rather, it grows and is strengthened within a community that believes, loves and hopes."

In conclusion, Pope Francis invited all Christians to pray for vocations and trust that the Holy Spirit will inspire young people to welcome their vocation. Let us never tire of asking the Lord for new labourers for His harvest, certain that with great love He continues to call them," he concluded." Keep walking as pilgrims of hope on the path of the Gospel !"

Throughout Great Britain and internationally we have many vigils for vocations being held at various times throughout the year. This vigil of May 8th 2025 now in its 39th continuous year with the exception of that horrible covid year takes place around Good Shepherd Sunday, Vocations Sunday, May 11th, was importantly developed to coincide with the Holy Father's message at that time, The theme being that of the late Pope Francis "Pilgrims of hope: The gift of life." given while in the Gemelli hospital during his period of illness prior to his death.

Traditionally our Vigil for Vocations take place in Great Britain and indeed the Serra world on the Thursday or Friday preceding that date giving some 48 hours of continuous prayer in parishes throughout the planet.

The Vigils while varying, follow a programme of Eucharistic celebration followed by Adoration, silent reflection, Rosary for vocations, with guest speakers focuses on priestly and consecrated religious vocations, concluding with Night prayer and Benediction.

Many of those attending, particularly new attendees noted how meaningful and how quickly the time passed.

The Last message of Pope Francis:- "Pilgrims of hope: The gift of life."

Pope Francis invites young people to listen to God's voice in their hearts so they may be signs of His love for our world. The Pope's recalls that every vocation, be it to ordained ministry, consecrated life, or the laity, should offer the world a sign of God's hope for every person.

He noted that young people frequently feel dismay and confusion when they look to the future, given the background of insecurity, identity crises, unjust treatment of others amid general indifference." Yet the Lord, who





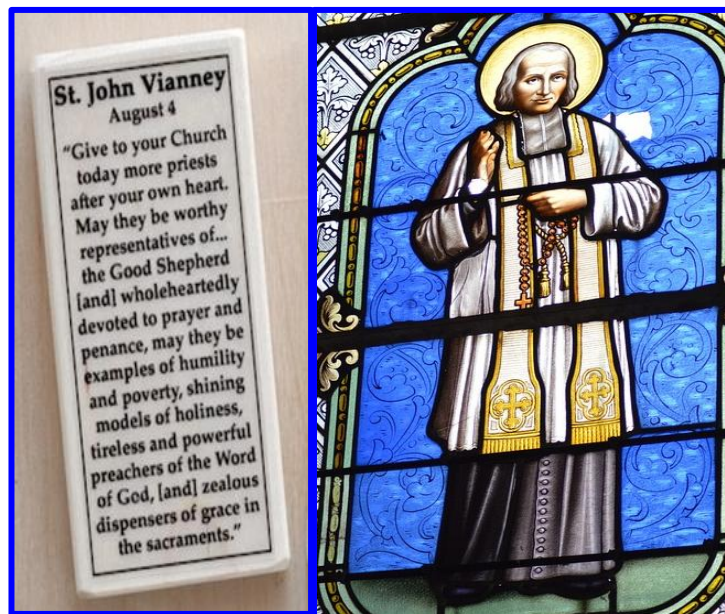
July 1st the feast day of our patron

St Junipero Serra, the Franciscan missionary born in Petra, Majorca, Spain who played a leading role in the early missionary work of our Church in Mexico and California. St. Junipero Serra was born in 1713, as Miquel Josep Serra Ferrer.

When he was sixteen years old, he began studying philosophy at a Franciscan school in Palma de Majorca. At age seventeen, Miquel chose to join the Franciscan order. He took the name Junipero, and he was ordained a priest in 1737. For the next twelve years, he taught philosophy at the University of Padua. During this time, he became well-known for his preaching. Then in 1750, he decided to follow God's call to missionary work. He set off for North America to work converting the native peoples there. He and a companion arrived in Vera Cruz, Mexico. They then had to walk two hundred fifty miles to Mexico City. During the journey, a bug bite on his leg became infected and continued to hurt him for the rest of his life. For the next eighteen years, Father Serra worked on the Baja Peninsula and in Central Mexico, preaching and working to convert the Native Americans. In 1769, Father Serra established the mission of San Diego. Despite a severe shortage of food, Father Serra vowed to remain with the people there. After praying a novena to St. Joseph, a ship with supplies came to relieve the shortage. In the years that followed, Father Serra established the missions of Monterey, San Antonio, San Gabriel, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Clara, and San Buenaventura. Father Serra's life of missionary work was full of sufferings from cold, hunger, and sometimes danger of death from hostile non-Christians. He sustained himself with a vigorous prayer life, often praying from midnight until dawn. Apart from working for the conversion of the Native Americans, Father Serra also worked for their protection. He was able to secure what was essentially a bill of rights for Native Americans from the government the friars being appointed their legal guardians, this legislation protected the Native Americans from being abused by Spanish soldiers. Father Serra eventually baptized more than three thousand Native Americans and brought a higher standard of living to their lives. His feast day is 1st July frequently used as the first day of our nine-day novena. Pray this nine-day novena to give us the strength and courage to continue the necessary work of fostering and promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our Catholic Church The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" Luke 10-2

[Download the Novena here](#)
"Always forward, never back"

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.

Our Schools projects

Each year, in the month of June, as the senior school term ends and exams ended, students are reflecting on their future career paths. At this time Serra is invited to join our 5th-6th year students and share the possibility of a priestly or religious vocation as part of their lifestyle choices.



Serrans joined by our team of diocesan priests, sisters and brothers of our religious orders share their particular charisms with the students.



Our teams join groups of students invite questions and share discussions in workshops on their vocation. It is a difficult time of decision for our students, some having definite ideas about their future careers others needing time to discern in their choices. As Serrans it would be inappropriate to overly suggest a religious career but gently create the idea of serving our church as a religious. We hope that by having our team share their experiences, our students may consider a vocation to the religious life.



We can only plant the seed Our Lord makes that divine call. The event concludes with a Mass for vocations.

“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest”



Serra Connects.

Read the stories from all over the SerraWorld The April '25 edition. [Here](#)

This New issue features the state of Serra and the vision for a dynamic future, filled with inspiring reflections on hope, powerful stories from the Miami Serra Rally, and exciting previews of the upcoming Serra International Convention in Kansas City. Whether you're drawn in by keynote insights, updates, or moving personal testimonies, this issue is a vibrant reminder of our shared mission to foster vocations with faith, courage, and joyful hope..... Read [here](#).



Join us for Serra's 81st International Convention in New Orleans,

Our Serra Convention is a profound opportunity for spiritual growth and learning. Engage with well-known speakers who will inspire with their deep wisdom and insights. From practical workshops to inspiring keynote addresses, you'll enhance your faith and be equipped with the tools to strengthen your efforts to foster and
There is still time to register ! [Register here](#)

Our 2025 Conference will take place on Sunday 5th October

Normally held at a central location for our members from north and south of the border, last year's meeting was held using the Zoom platform. It was agreed, while the physical meetings were more desirable, the virtual meeting would eliminate the costs of travel and accommodation.

Following on from last year we can report that our membership from some areas had fallen but had increased with new members in the north and south of the country. Importantly our vocations activities, considering our small numbers were of a good level of activity which included our vigils, holy hours, parish groups, school vocations

Communications via this newsletter and our website showed an increase in the number of people enjoying our resources pages using our various vocations programmes within their homes and parishes.

Our Serra GB board and slate of officers were agreed by vote and will continue as last year. Considering this change to virtual, we would think that there is still a need to meet physically but also enjoyed seeing more faces than would be possible with travel.

An opportunity to join us internationally



The Serra Meets programme is now a routine webinar broadcast on the second Saturday of each month throughout 2025.

Enjoy virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic of Catholic vocations.

Our next Meets are June 14th, July 12th, August 9th 2025 at 5.00pm GMT. 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, 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

The founding of the Holy Rosary

In the year 1214 the rosary was given to Saint Dominic the founder of the Dominican order when the Virgin Mary appeared to him in an apparition., giving him a rosary, and asked that Christians pray the Rosary.

The Dominican priest and theologian Alanus de Rupe promoted the practice of the Rosary by establishing the “fifteen rosary mysteries” and many confraternities of the rosary were formed. In 2002 Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae added the fourth mystery the “mystery of light”

A Serran “Rosary for vocations”

You can download [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



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 30th at 2.00pm GMT continuing into 2024 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 the vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

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.

“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
Serra International Rosary for Vocations

This is not a Joke!

Dear Parents — Please Read This.

One evening, a teacher was reviewing her students’ work while her husband sat nearby, completely absorbed in his phone. He was scrolling, tapping, laughing, lost in his screen.

She made her way through each notebook until she reached the last one and suddenly, her hands began to tremble. Her eyes filled with tears. Her husband noticed and asked, “Hey... what’s wrong?” She tried to steady her voice as she replied, “I asked my students to write a short piece called ‘If I Could Be Anything...’” He nodded. “Okay... so what happened?” She looked at him, barely able to speak. “I just read what our son wrote.”

He grew still. “What did he say?” She began softly:

If I could be anything, I would be a smartphone.
Because my parents love their phones more than anything.
They hold them close. They never ignore them.
They get excited when the phone makes a sound — but they don’t react the same way when I speak.
When the phone needs charging, they rush to plug it in.
But when I need attention, I’m told to wait. They always have time for their screens... but not always for me.

That’s why I want to become a smartphone, so maybe then, I’ll feel important too.
The room fell silent. Her husband slowly put his phone down.

And in that moment, everything changed.

This is your reminder: Technology can be useful but it should never take the place of real connection.
Your child needs you, not a perfect home or the latest gadget. They need your time, your eye contact, your presence. Because in their world, you are everything.
Make sure they know it.

Global Catholic population Pontifical Yearbook 2025

The global Catholic population increased by 1.15% between 2022 and 2023, rising from approximately 1.39 billion to 1.406 billion, a percentage very similar to that of the previous biennium.

Africa includes 20% of the Catholics of the entire planet and is characterized by a highly dynamic spread of the Catholic Church. The number of Catholics increased from 272 million in 2022 to 281 million in 2023, with a relative variation of +3.31%. The Democratic Republic of Congo confirms its first-place position for the number of baptized Catholics, with almost 55 million, followed by Nigeria with 35 million; Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya also register significant figures.

With a growth of 0.9% over the biennium, the Americas consolidate their position as the continents to which 47.8% of the world's Catholics belong. Of these, 27.4% reside in South America (where Brazil, with 182 million, represents 13% of the world total and continues to be the country with the highest concentration of Catholics), 6.6% in North America, and the remaining 13.8% in Central America. When the number of Catholics is compared to the total population, Argentina, Colombia, and Paraguay stand out, with a Catholic incidence exceeding 90% of the population.

The Asian continent records a growth of Catholics of 0.6% over the biennium, and its weight in 2023 is around 11% of the global Catholic population. In 2023, 76.7% of Southeast Asian Catholics are concentrated in the Philippines, with 93 million, and in India, with 23 million. Europe, while hosting 20.4% of the world Catholic community, confirms itself as the least dynamic area, with an increase in the number of Catholics over the biennium of just 0.2%. This variation, on the other hand, in the face of an almost stagnant demographic dynamic, translates into a slight improvement in territorial presence, which reaches nearly 39.6% in 2023. Italy, Poland, and Spain boast a Catholic incidence exceeding 90% of the resident population. The Catholics of Oceania numbered just over 11 million in 2023, an increase of 1.9% compared to 2022.

Fewer priests however!

At the end of 2023, within the 3,041 ecclesiastical jurisdictions in the Catholic world, there were 406,996 priests, with a decrease of 734 compared to 2022, equivalent to -0.2%. The analysis by geographical area highlights an increase in Africa (+2.7%) and Asia (+1.6%) and a decrease in Europe (-1.6%), in Oceania (-1.0%), and in America (-0.7%).....Full details [here](#)

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 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 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 vocations as priests and
religious.

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