



Serra GB

focus

March 2026



During Lent we pray, we fast and we give alms. These sacrificial practices prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for the passion, death and resurrection of our Saviour at Easter, that wonderful event which gives us our faith.

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>



Easter message from the President of Serra Great Britain

Once again I have the privilege of being the President of Serra Great Britain and supporting the work of this great apostolate.

Last year was a Holy Year and proved to be a year of hope. In the Holy Land a ceasefire was achieved and that peace is progressing slowly. We all pray that this dreadful war ceases completely. Jerusalem 'The city of peace.' and that part of the world is so important to us as Christians, it is where Jesus lived and preached and created His church.

Let's also pray that peace comes to the Ukraine and the other parts of the world at war, relieving the sorrow and pain of so many of God's people.

We are approaching Easter, a time when we rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord, a time when spring brings hope of warmer days and brighter futures. A time when our Catholic faith is renewed by the magnificence of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Let us pray that people who are suffering the ills of society can find hope, peace and joy in the Resurrection.

As Serrans we pray by word and deed supporting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life and we will continue to do so in the years ahead.

My Easter Message is one of hope for the future. We should embrace the message of the Risen Christ which is a positive one and hope that all of us and especially our young people will grow in faith, love and be encouraged by that message.

....Chris Kelly

The Season ahead

A long time ago when we didn't have mobile phones or today's technology or even a time when calendars were not readily available, the church needed to publicise the seasons and dates of the many church celebrations. The Church and Sunday services were guiding weekly and monthly events giving thought as to when and where we are in our year.

The feast of the Epiphany back in February marked an important time in the church calendar. The *Noveritis*, also variously known as the Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts is sung on the feast of the Epiphany and contains a summary of liturgical dates of moveable feasts in the year ahead. In many parts of the world the *Noveritis* fell into disuse during the latter twentieth century, but some sources suggest a notable revival of its use in the early years of the twenty-first century.

Noveritis comes from the incipit of the chant. It is sung to the same tune as the *Exsultat*. Following a long-established custom of the Church, the deacon or cantor following the reading of the Gospel may proclaim the movable feasts of the current year, in the following form.

*Know, dear brethren (brothers and sisters), that,
as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so by leave of God's mercy
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,
who is our Saviour.*

*On the eighteenth day of February will fall Ash
Wednesday,
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten
season.*

*On the fifth day of April you will celebrate with joy
Easter Day,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*On the fourteenth day of May will be the Ascension of
our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the feast of
Pentecost.*

*On the seventh day of June, the feast of the Most Holy
Body and Blood of Christ.*

*On the twenty-ninth day of November, the First Sunday
of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever.*

Amen.

And so, our calendar is set and guides us through our Catholic year. Lent is set and we await that magnificent event of Easter and our Risen Christ without which we would not have our faith.



What does the Cross mean to you?

At this time of Lent and Easter the cross plays a significant role in our faith. It is the period when we contemplate the way of the cross and our Lord's journey, that ignominious journey to Calvary, the place of His execution and His ultimate sacrifice of death for each and every one of us. That most importantly, was followed by His magnificent resurrection, without which we have no faith.

When you walk through our cities you often see crosses or crucifixes adorning the neckline of people as a fashion accessory or perhaps a symbol of their Christian faith. At sports venues some players make the Sign of the Cross casually, are they wishing or praying for a win in their competition? A superstition perhaps? Are they indicating they are Christian or even Catholic? As we pass or enter a church where the Blessed Sacrament is kept, or as we pass a cemetery some make the sign of the cross. Do we make the Sign of the Cross just as a nice gesture for the beginning and or ending of our prayer? Do we encourage others to think why we may have faith?

When we learn to take this act seriously, signing ourselves frequently with faith and reverence, remarkable results can take place. We find ourselves doing better in our Christian life: praying with more passion, resisting our bad thoughts and habits more effectively, and showing more kindness to our fellow beings.

We make the Sign of the Cross with Holy Water as we enter church, and we start our prayers with the Sign of the Cross. It reminds us of the Most Holy Trinity, and of Jesus's sacrifice on the Cross. With Holy Water it is also a reminder of our baptism.

The Sign of the Cross, after all, is not merely a pious gesture. It is a powerful prayer, a way of making us mindful of the Holy Trinity and inviting God into our daily lives. It brings the power of Christ's cross to us, it is a powerful help against temptation and an excellent way of reminding us of the great things Jesus has done for us. Pray the sign of the cross often and be mindful of what it means in the life of the Church and in your own life. What is the significance of making the sign of the cross before and after private prayer? The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that when Catholics are baptized "the sign of the cross, on the threshold of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to him and signifies the grace of the Redemption Christ won for us by his cross" (CCC 1235).

The sign of the cross is a blessing and closely tied to our baptism. Jesus told the apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19).

Thereafter, each time we make the sign of the cross we remember that we belong to Christ.

The Christian begins his day, his prayers, and his activities with the sign of the cross: The baptised person dedicates the day to the glory of God and calls on the Saviour's grace which lets him act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The sign of the cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties. (CCC 2157)

Our faith teaches us that the Sign of the Cross diffuses the force of powerful temptations such as anger and lust. So, no matter how strongly we are tempted, we can use the Sign of the Cross to help us live our faith. He laid down His life for us. Pray the sign of the Cross.

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" spoken at the end of Mass or services, we are sent out from worship to live our faith daily by bringing God's love and justice into the world, acting as Christ's representatives in everyday life and challenging injustices. It signifies transforming worship into active service, extending faith, hope and love through actions like helping the oppressed and restoring broken relationships, fulfilling God's greatest commandments.

Pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Junipero Serra

At the heart of pilgrimage is a longing that has fascinated and compelled the human spirit from time immemorial. And this ancient practice is experiencing a growing attraction and taking on new forms and cultural immersion across diverse faiths including Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism. Pilgrimages around the world connect people to spiritual roots, with famous holy sites like Lourdes, Fatima, Spain's Camino de Santiago, Vatican City, Jerusalem, Medjugorje to mention just a few which attract millions for spiritual journeys. Being European of course we recognise many of the above sites but often are unaware of other world sites perhaps beyond our travelling reach.

In the Americas, North, Central and South, Aasia and Africa there are many pilgrimage sites and pilgrim ways. Travelers today, like pilgrims of old, are experiencing transforming journeys along many pilgrim ways.

More and more people are discovering that a journey in the way of America's great missionary saint, the apostle of California, St Junipero Serra, is a superb way of absorbing his saintly passion and love for the Gospel.

Particular interest to all Serrans will be that of the Missionary journey of St Junipero Serra. We journey his Camino (The Camino Real) connecting the California missions established by Saint Junipero Serra, many of which are the great cities of California today, expressing his courageous life. We can then prepare ourselves to continue, in our own way, the journey forward that he began in California from 1769 to his death, in 1784.

Father Junípero Serra was beatified in 1988 and canonized by Pope Francis in Washington, DC, on Sept 23rd, 2015 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (pilgrimage site) for the first canonization Mass celebrated in the United States



By embodying his spirit on pilgrimage, we can become more missionary in our discipleship and more evangelical in our Catholicism. Join the way connecting the [21 California missions](#). St Junipero Serra . Pray for us.

The Priest On Sunday Night

Tonight, Lord, **I am alone**. Little by little the sounds died down in the church. The people went away, **And I came home, Alone**.

I passed people who were returning from a walk. I went by the cinema that was disgorging its crowd. I skirted café terraces where tired strollers were trying to prolong the pleasure of a Sunday holiday. I bumped into youngsters playing on the footpath, Youngsters, Lord, Other people's youngsters who will never be my own.

Here I am, Lord, Alone.

The silence troubles me. The solitude oppresses me. Lord, I'm 35 years old. A body made like others, ready for work, A heart meant for love. But I've given you all. It's true of course, that you needed it. I've given you all, but it is hard. Lord. It's hard to give one's body; it would like to give itself to others. It's hard to love everyone and to claim no one. It's hard to shake a hand and not want to keep it.

It's hard to inspire affection, only to give it to you. It's hard to be nothing to oneself in order to be everything to others. It's hard to be like others, among others, and be another to them. It's hard always to give without trying to receive. It's hard to seek out others and to be oneself unsought. It's hard to be told secrets, and never be able to share them. It's hard to carry others and never, even for a moment, be carried. It's hard to sustain the feeble and never be able to lean on one who is strong. It's hard to be alone. **Alone before everyone. Alone before the world. Alone before suffering, death, sin.**

Our Lord's intervention:

*Son, you are not alone, I am with you. I am you.
For I needed another human vehicle to continue my
Incarnation and my Redemption. Out of all eternity, I chose
you. I need you. I need your hands to continue to bless,
I need your lips to continue to speak,
I need your body to continue to suffer,
I need your heart to continue to love,
I need you to continue to save, Stay with me.*

Here I am Lord. Here is my body, my heart, my soul. Grant that I may be big enough to reach the world, Strong enough to carry it. Pure enough to embrace it without wanting to keep it. Grant that I may be a meeting-place, but a temporary one, a road that does not end in itself, because everything to be gathered there, everything human, must be led to you.

Lord, tonight, while all is still and I feel sharply the sting of solitude, While people devour my soul and I feel incapable of satisfying their hunger, While the world presses on my shoulders with all its weight of misery and sin, I repeat to you my "yes"—not in a burst of laughter, but slowly, clearly, humbly, Alone, Lord, before you, In the peace of the evening.

Fr Michael Quoist. Catholic priest, theologian and writer.

“Stations for Vocations”



During this period of Lent, while the “Rosary for vocations” is one of our most important and well used prayer resources we can also concentrate on the agony and pain endured by our Saviour for the redemption of mankind by praying our “Stations for Vocations” with reflections for each station.

Vigils for Vocations 23rd/24th April 2026

Throughout Great Britain and internationally we have many vigils for vocations being held at various times throughout the year. This vigil which takes place around Good Shepherd Sunday, Vocations Sunday, were importantly developed to coincide with the Holy Father’s message for vocations at that time.

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 usually following a programme of Eucharistic celebration followed by Adoration, silent reflection, Rosary for vocations, with guest speakers focusing on priestly and consecrated religious vocations, concluding with Night prayer and Benediction.

Should you wish to have a vigil in your area contact your nearest Serra club for details.

Pope Leo’s message for Good Shepherd Sunday, Vocations Sunday, will appear, when available, on our website

We send our sincere congratulations to the Most Reverend Richard Moth Archbishop of Westminster



His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed the Most Reverend Richard Moth as Archbishop of Westminster. Archbishop Moth was installed at Westminster Cathedral on February 14th, 2026. He has become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols,

He is joint patron to Serra Great Britain together with the Archbishop William Nolan of the Glasgow Archdiocese. To Cardinal Nichols, we thank him for his support as patron to Serra GB over the last 16 years and indeed his service to our Church.

“To Cardinal Nichols, Ad multos annos. To our patrons thank you, you are in our prayers.”



“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 and those thinking of the vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

Does your parish have adoration or Holy Hours for vocations?

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

.....St. Ignatius of Loyola

Get Started!

God is waiting for you. He will lead you to the path for which you were created. He has the best plan for your life! "Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. ...Pope St. John Paul II

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.

“Vocations 31 Club” How about “Vocations 28 Club”?

Not to be confused with our 31 Club programme, which invites a parishioner to select one day of each month (it may be a birthday date or one easily remembered) to offer their mass for the priests and religious of their parish and to pray that more vocations may come from their parish.

A recent promotion by one of our primary schools, the staff of St Nicholas primary, Glasgow, have written beautiful vocation prayers which are recited daily at assembly by their pupils. [The 28 club](#)

Each year of the 7 years of primary classes will take one of the 4 weeks of the month and lead the prayers for vocations. It is our hope and prayer that this be adopted by other primary schools. Contact your nearest Serra club for more information.....*Ricky*

The Serra GB National AGM

Our annual Serra GB council meeting changed. Our meetings, normally held at a central location for our members from north and south of the border, last year were held using a video based conferencing platform thus eliminating 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 seemed steady and in some areas increased reflecting the national changes particularly in our school events.

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.

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.

Our next annual conference will take place 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.*



Serra Connects brings Serrans around the world, to share in their own language, and make them feel part of the universal family of Serra Internationally.

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](#):



The Serran Magazine The November 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.

The Serran [November issue](#)



82nd International Convention.

**Our theme
“ENCOUNTERING CHRIST.”**

**Join our Serrans from around the world on
9th-12th July 2026**

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Register for this amazing experience [here](#)

Reserve your room [here](#)

An opportunity to join us internationally



The Serra Meets programme is now a routine webinar broadcast on the second Saturday of each month throughout 2026 with virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic of Catholic vocations.

Our next Meets, March 14th, April 11th, May 9th 2026, 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.

A Serran “Rosary for vocations”



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 28th March at 2.00pm GMT continuing through 2026 on the last Saturdays of every month.

*Join us free, use Access Code: 314-315-91. at:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/314315981>*

Download the latest news from the Vatican
Pope Leo’s message for Good Shepherd Sunday, Vocations Sunday, the 63rd “World day of prayer for vocations” will appear on our website when released, usually in time for Good Shepherd Sunday (Vocations Sunday) 26th April 2026.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

FEBRUARY 2026 ... For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the medical care and support they need, never losing their strength and hope.

MARCH 2026... For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations will proceed with effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders will choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

APRIL 2026 ... For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests who are going through times of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the necessary support and that their communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

MAY 2026... For food for all. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, will commit to preventing food waste and ensuring that everyone has access to quality food.

JUNE 2026 ... For the values of sport. Let us pray that sport may be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue between cultures and nations and that it may promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

JULY 2026... For respect for human life. Let us pray for respect for and protection of human life at all stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

AUGUST 2026... For evangelization in the city. Let us pray that, in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we may find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SEPTEMBER 2026... For the care of water. Let us pray for fair and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that all may have equitable access to it.

OCTOBER 2026... For mental health ministry. Let us pray that mental health ministry may be integrated throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness.

NOVEMBER 2026... For the good use of wealth. Let us pray for the good use of wealth so that, not yielding to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be at the service of the common good and solidarity with those who have less.

DECEMBER 2026... For single-parent families. Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or a father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith in difficult times.

It's only a joke [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.**

////////////////////////////////////