



Serra GB

focus

September 2024



*“Pray the Holy Rosary for vocations to the priesthood
and consecrated religious life.”*

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>

Wocs for Vocs

One Sunday in late spring we were intrigued following an invitation to join a walk for vocations organized by a deanery in the north of Glasgow. It was a warm day and seemed like the ideal day to enjoy a countryside amble. On arrival at the start point of this walk, one of the well known John Muir nature walks, a route which is a well trodden path for hikers or cyclists where you would encounter the friendly retorts of “Good afternoon or fine weather for a walk” or such friendly passing comments.

We were greeted by several priests, a few we knew well and joined by others, priests and lay folks from various parishes in the area and of course a few Serrans who probably considered ourselves quite fit for the walk ahead. There were older and obviously some less fit giving of their time and prayer to join this walk for vocations.

We contemplated this 6 mile estimated to be a 2.1/2 hour walk ahead of us. Our journey started with prayer for vocations particularly for our own archdiocese and we headed off. A priest ahead of us setting the pace for those of us who seemed keen walkers and of course a priest behind to bring up the rear and possibly those a little slower.

One long straight stretch along a very pleasant country path bounded by trees and shrubbery on each side, It looked quite easy especially as we were getting to know our fellow travelers but that was the start.

As the journey progressed the gap between front and rear got wider and the path still very pleasant and not too difficult in this very pleasant walking weather was a bit of fun. The front runners or walkers would stop, allowing the others to catch up and rest on the tree trunks or boulders around this path. The source of discussions was obviously on the state of vocations here in our own archdiocese. Our thoughts being the source of our prayer.

The long straight sections now came with the thoughts of “We must be getting closer to Schoenstatt our destination but No! The next bend followed by the next straight section seemed to last forever. The tree and hedge rows lining the path started to open up to fields with cattle, horse or sheep seeming to distract from our now harder journey. The pilgrim line got longer as those less fit fell further back but still accompanied by our priestly support

The journey now opened up with the awesome scenery of the Campsie fells not of any great height but of lush shades of tree and hill greenery and tones of purple heather, ridges of rock and streams of babbling brooks descending from the heights above. We had to contemplate the God given gifts of tranquility and peacefulness in our land. A time to escape our everyday trials, to think of this gift and perhaps give thanks for all the gifts given to us by Our Lord.



After 3 1/2 hrs somewhat later than expected not surprising considering that long pilgrim journey we finally arrived at our final destination, the tranquil setting of the Schoenstatt Shrine set amidst this most beautiful countryside away from the hustle and bustle of the city of Glasgow.



We were greeted by Sister Mary-Elsbeth of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary a community of consecrated women founded in Germany in 1926 by Father Joseph Kentenich. They serve the mission of his original foundation, the Schoenstatt Movement, Germany, She returned home 1983 to work at this Schoenstatt Retreat Centre here in Scotland where she worked until 2004. From 2004-2010 she worked in Cape Town, South Africa after which she returned to Scotland. Sr. Mary Elsbeth still works with the community in South Africa on a regular basis.



Our Walk for Vocations focused our prayer and thoughts on vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We finished by praying the Rosary for Vocations lead by our Serran members.



Schools events

We have reached that time of the year when our focus is turned to our schools events. Pupils generally from our senior fifth and sixth years having completed their exams and applying for university, college etc. are considering their future careers, spend some time in the company of our religious guests mainly diocesan priests and brothers and sisters from religious orders. There is an opportunity for the students to engage with our guests asking questions about their work and vocation choices. The object of this programme is not to badger or harass the students but hopefully just plant the seed or notion of vocation as their lifestyle choice. The one day programme finishes with our vocations mass.



Our travelling vocations team comprising priests from dioceses, religious orders and sisters and brothers and of course our Serrans.



The students of fifth and sixth years



Our next University event will take place at the University of Glasgow, University Chaplaincy, Turnbull Hall, 15 Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG Thursday 26th September 2024 7pm -9pm All very welcome



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our Serra GB chaplain Fr Anthony Carlo Cogliolo.

Fr Tony died on July 8th following a brief illness and was laid to rest on the 23rd July. His requiem mass was celebrated in his home parish of

Sacred Heart and St Teresa's church, Wilmslow. Attending were many priests, parishioners our Serra GB president and members of Serra from north and south of our country.

Fr Tony an active priest for some 55 years was ordained in 1969 at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, Rome after studying for the priesthood at the Beda College,

He served Serra GB as chaplain for over 19 years being our spiritual advisor a theologian and historian and indeed was a friend to each one of us. He will be sadly missed.

Requiescat in pace.

May he rest in peace in the comforting arms of Our Lord.



In the month of November, the Serra clubs of Great Britain will recognise and pray for all our deceased members at our masses and meetings.

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.





**Congratulations to
Right Reverend Andrew Mc Kenzie
Bishop of Dunkeld**

It is with great Joy that we congratulate Bishop Andrew Mc Kenzie as the new Bishop of the Dunkeld Diocese.

Bishop Andrew has had a long relationship with Glasgow Serra going back to our Serra International Convention of 1999 when the late Cardinal Winning hosted the very successful event.

Fr Andrew was then the chaplain to Glasgow Serra preparing the liturgy for some 800 guests including several bishops and priests from around the world. Coincidentally, Bishop John Keenan of the Paisley Diocese was also chaplain to Glasgow Serra. I don't know if that means anything but who knows? Our Serra members of the Dunkeld Diocese will warmly welcome him. Bishop Mc Kenzie is no stranger to the work of vocations having held the previous post of "Director of Priests for Scotland."



Photo with his dad Hugh and mum Anne and family

"In his 36 years of priestly service, the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the wider Church in Scotland have benefited from his talent, his commitment, his perseverance, and the high standards he has set in a variety of ministries.

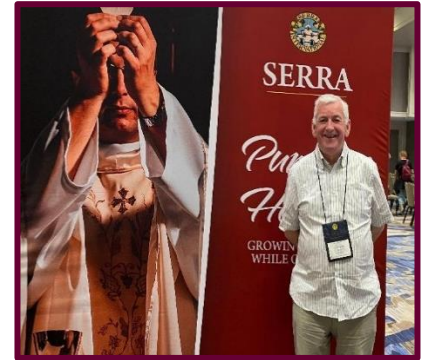
Reacting to his appointment, Canon Andrew said: *"I am humbled by the trust that Pope Francis has placed in me by inviting me to be the next Bishop of the Diocese of Dunkeld. With faith in God's guidance, and with some nervousness, I accepted his invitation. I take courage in the understanding that I will not be working alone, for each of us has a role to play in the work of evangelisation."*

Recognising the death of Bishop elect Martin Chambers Bishop Andrew continued. *"I know that this has been a difficult time for the Diocese of Dunkeld with the unexpected death of Bishop-elect Martin Chambers. We remember him and continue to pray for his eternal rest."*

As a friend of the family it was a great honour to be present and witness with his family this most amazing liturgy of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Andrew**Alex**

**Serra's 81st International Convention
from New Orleans,**

**Report on Serra's 81st International Convention
August 8-11 2024**



I had the privilege and honour to represent Serra GB at this Convention in New Orleans

Almost 300 Serrans gathered from around the world starting with Mass in the Hotel celebrated by the Most Rev. Italo Dell'Oro Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston The theme of the Convention "Ask and You Shall Receive" was emphasized in the Bishops sermon "Praying by Serrans is much appreciated."

The opening speakers the next day where both were involved in the formation of seminarians Rev Colm Cahill Vocations Director for Archbishop of New Orleans and Rev Mark Toups Director of Seminarians for Houma/Thibodeaux Diocese It was very useful to have a insite into the training of the future priests It helped Serrans to focus on our support for all seminarians.

Workshops

Vocations/Programs/Membership/Communications took place with best practices being shared with fellow Serrans Memorial Mass took place at the St Louis Cathedral celebrated by Most Rev. Gregory Aymond Archbishop of New Orleans. He again praised the support and prayers that Serrans give for the priesthood and consecrated lives.

On the final day we had talks from His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto and Very Rev Joshua Rodrigue Rector of Notre Dame Seminary In New Orleans

Both speakers gave a great deal encouragement for our work and encouraged us to pray for vocations. In the final afternoon we had reports from Serra Around the World and the Serra Delegates Meeting The closing Mass and Blessing of Officers was celebrated by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto

Conclusions; a good and very successful convention.



Moria McQueen President Serra International

Dr Moira McQueen was a lawyer before becoming Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. She teaches moral theology at

St Michael's in the University of Toronto and is a member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. Moira and husband Matthew have seven children and eleven grandchildren.

President Mc Queen gave her opening address highlighting her Strategic Plan which will be followed up in due course.

Congratulations to our own Mr Chris Kelly.

Chris currently our president of Serra Great Britain has been nominated as the representative of



Serra Great Britain on the Serra International board. Chris having taken up his position following the convention in New Orleans, will encounter a great experience of sharing with other members of the SI board from all over the Serra world. We know from our experience of Chris here in GB that he will represent us strongly. We will keep him in our prayers.

The Serra GB National AGM Sunday October 6th

Following the success of our conference in October '23, which was held virtually by a Zoom meeting, we have decided to hold our 2024 conference using the same platform.

This seems to be the most appealing way to join in our conference and Annual General meeting eliminating the need for travel by our members from north and south of the border.

Our conference will therefore take place as planned on Sunday October 6th at 2.00pm. Preparations have now started to ensure that the meeting of our Serra GB members will be of great interest and of value in our work in promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life.



October dedicated to the Holy Rosary and Our Lady of the Rosary.

Why the month of October? October 7 is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Church chose that day and, by extension, the month of October to honour Our Lady of the Rosary because of a great victory which took place on October 7, 1571.

The Church in Europe, in that year, faced a seemingly hopeless challenge. The Ottoman Empire had already conquered the Middle East, slaughtering millions of Christians and forcing the survivors to convert to Islam. They then moved across the Mediterranean Sea, taking the crucial islands of Crete and Cyprus. From these islands, they set their sights on the Christian kingdoms of the central Mediterranean, threatening Sicily, Venice, and even Rome herself.

Pope Pius V called on the Christian princes of Europe to rally to defeat the Islamic threat. In addition, he called on rosary confraternities in Rome and all over Europe to undertake special processions and public recitation of the Rosary, asking the intercession of Our Lady. What ensued was the famous Battle of Lepanto between the Holy League and the Ottoman Empire. The Christian fleet was far outnumbered and appeared to have no hope of winning. On the first Sunday of October 1571, the Christian fleet met and defeated the invading Turks off the coast of Greece in the Gulf of Lepanto.

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”
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 will 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 Sept 28th 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 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

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 Holy Father’s message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Each year, the Holy Father invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord’s call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Pope Francis in his message for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2024 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 to live out, will never be in vain.

In His final message to young people, he says ““Rise up!” Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, Read the [Holy Father’s message](#) for this World day of prayer for vocations.... [here](#)



The Serran Magazine
For over 60 years we have published our quarterly magazine. Stay up to date with all the Serra news. Our June edition

SERRA AROUND THE WORLD

Glasgow Serra Club holds its 35th annual Vigil for Vocations. Every year, the Serra Club of Glasgow holds its Vigil for Vocations on World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Holy Father’s message and theme this year was, “Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace.” The Vigil started in Glasgow in 1989 and became a Serra International vocations programme in 2000. It is now practiced throughout Great Britain and the world at the same time thus praying and promoting vocations continually for some 24 hours. We know from various surveys that the number of parishes participating around the world is in the many thousands but started in our city of Glasgow and has happened each year with the exception of the dreadful Covid year. Glasgow Serra has organised the Vigil in various parishes throughout the city. This year it took place St Eunan’s in the Dunbartonshire West Deanery of our Archdiocese, specifically the parish of the recently appointed chaplain to Serra and Archdiocesan Vocation Director Fr. Patrick Boyle.

Continue the read in The Serran page 10? Let us know about your ideas and programs by reaching out via email to magazine@serrainternational.org.’

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 SERRA CONNECTS can help achieve these goals by creating a two-way flow of news and ideas: from individual Serra Clubs scattered around the world to the Leadership of Serra International

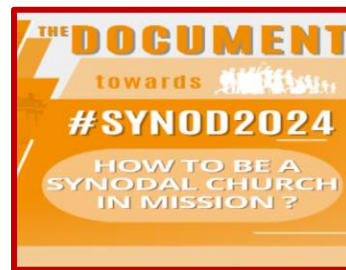
[Serra Connects](#)

An opportunity to join us internationally



The Serra Meets programme is now a routine webinar broadcast on the second Saturday of each month throughout 2023/24 with virtual lectures from leading clergy and experts on the topic of Catholic vocations.

Our next Meets are Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th 2024, 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 Synod on Synodality 2020/24 eagerly expected since 2021 is now gathering pace with some 365 Bishops religious and members of the laity from around the world. The latest document “How to be a Synodal church in Mission

We recall that the purpose of the Synod is to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships and awaken a dawn of hope

The second session which is due to take place on October 2nd-27th [Download the latest news from the Vatican](#)



The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. Commencing on the first Sunday of Advent’24 for one year This Jubilee offers a chance for spiritual renewal,

forgiveness of sins, and participation in age-old traditions. There will be many dioceses and churches throughout the world organizing pilgrimages to Rome during that year. Be prepared to join the celebration.

It’s a Joke

Two grizzly bears meet one day. The first grizzly says, "You know, I just can't seem to get a tender Missionary. I've tenderised, I've baked them, I've roasted them, I've stewed them, I've barbecued them, I've tried every sort of marinade. I just cannot seem to get them tender." The second grizzly asks, "What kind of Missionary do you use?" The other replied, "You know, the ones that hang out at that place at the bend of the river. They have those brown cloaks with a rope around the waist and they're sort of bald on top with a funny ring of hair on their heads." "Ah, ha!" the second grizzly replies. "No wonder ... those are friars!"

**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 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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