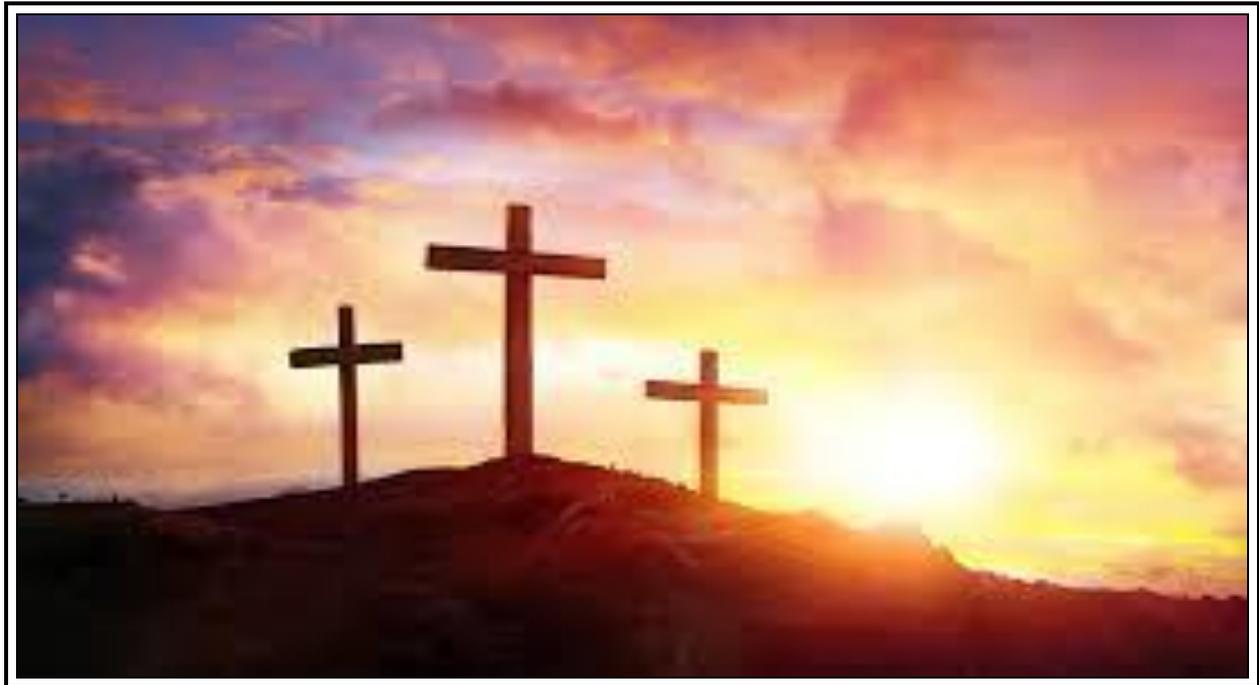




Serra GB

Focus

April 2019



“If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” (1 Cor 15:14)

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 patronage of the His Eminence Most Reverend Vincent Cardinal Nichols and Most Reverend Philip Tartaglia, Archbishop of Glasgow

For more information on our apostolate visit: www.Serra.gb.org.uk

EASTER MESSAGE

As I sit here composing this greeting, I can see from my window a beautiful blossom tree in full bloom.

It is as if the tree is raising its flower-laden branches towards heaven and shouting "Renewal."

May we all be inspired to renew our Serran activities and to increase our membership

"He is risen. Alleluia."

Stan Ollieuz, President Serra Great Britain

Congratulations to Fr Tony Cogliolo



On the 22nd March Fr Tony celebrated the Golden jubilee of his ordination.

Your devotion and faithful service to our Lord has touched countless souls.



You have been our guiding light for over 20 years as our National chaplain to Serra Great Britain.

Fr Tony being presented with a blessing from the Holy Father and of course the obligatory cutting of the anniversary cake.

"Fr Tony your encouragement inspires us, our deepest thanks, you are in our prayers"

Serra GB Serrans

How can we as Serrans best support our chaplains?

By keeping them in our prayer. I think the most important thing we can do for one another is to pray for him or her. The Holy Father often says "Pray for me" bishops often say, "Let us pray for each other." That is the best support for all priests.

A prayer for our priests

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving.

We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned.

Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put your words on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted. Amen

"He is Risen"

As we continue to trek through the season of Lent, We fast. We pray. We offer a form of penance. We do good deeds. We are reminded of the Holy Week. that lays ahead: the passion death and resurrection of Christ. Our Easter liturgy tells a story. It's the greatest story ever told: the salvation history of the human race. It starts in Eden, before evil entered the world, when God walked the earth. The story includes the Passover, when Moses led God's People out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. They followed a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. The Presence of God journeyed with them, in the Ark of the Covenant, housed in a tent. Also known as a tabernacle. Later, King David planned a Temple to house the Divine Presence, and his son, King Solomon built it. The Temple of Solomon was one of the great wonders of the Ancient World, renowned for its luxury and stature. But then the Temple was destroyed, and the Chosen People were exiled. So God raised up prophets, to encourage the people. They foretold the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one, the Christ.

The salvation history of the human race culminates in Jesus Christ. The Messiah, The Son of God. God Himself! For the first time since Eden, God walked the earth. He dwelt among us. But then we killed him. When Jesus died, the veil in the (new) Temple was torn in two. The Divine Presence had left the building. But on the third day, God the Father breathed God the Spirit back into God the Son, and the Divine Presence has never left the earth again. The body and blood of the Son is present in tabernacles throughout the world. And the Holy Trinity dwells in every one of the baptised. Our bodies have become Temples, where the Divine Presence dwells.

These facts are passed down to us, from generation to generation, just as we pass the light of Christ from candle to candle in the Easter Vigil. Jesus spoke about hell often, a teaching which was repeated by the apostles, and handed down, through generations. Not even the Pope who is infallible in matters of faith and morals can change that teaching. **“Jesus is risen from the dead”**. Our faith is filled with unanswered questions, unanswerable questions, and mystery, everything hinges on this extraordinary claim: **“Jesus is risen from the dead”**



The tomb is empty, empty as an Easter egg is hollow. This is one of the reasons we have Easter eggs — they are a reminder of the startling discovery on Easter Sunday morning. The tomb is empty! Jesus is risen! We have to insist on this. The resurrection

of Jesus isn't something that is “symbolic” or esoterically spiritual. It's real. It's spiritual and physical. St Paul declares that if the dead body of Jesus was found, Christianity would pack up. The Church would close shop. Here are Paul's exact words, straight from the Bible:

“If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.”
(1 Cor 15:14)

The Roman Catholic population worldwide is growing, but the number of priests and religious continues to decline.

(from February edition)

The greatest gift to our Church must be the gift given by parents in providing priests and consecrated religious to serve Christ's people. Christ asks of some men and women the sacrifice of their lives in following him as his more intimate companions. From all eternity, certain men and women are called to serve. It is a call inscribed in their nature and because of this, is a call that will bring them fulfillment.

The call to serve as a priest who acts “in persona Christi”, “in the person of Christ, head of the Church.” That's why the priest speaks in the first person at Mass, “This is my body, given up for you.” As Pope John Paul II wrote: “The priest offers his humanity to Christ, so that Christ may use him as an instrument of salvation, making him as it were into another Christ.”

The call to serve as a sister, brother, missionary, is also that call from Jesus Christ to live a relationship with Him by serving His people. Not content to leave His people

with simply the memory of His redeeming love, Christ chose the apostles to continue His work on earth until the end of time. The religious life is an extension of this, and hence is a continuation of His work in the world today. While every member of the Church is a priestly people, sharing in the priesthood of Christ by their daily sacrifices, prayers, sharing and putting the Gospel into practice, God calls specific people to serve in His name in the midst of the community.



Priests and consecrated religious may have given up their families, the words of our Lord “I give you my word, there is not one who has given up home, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children or property, for me and for the Gospel who will not receive in this present age a hundred times as many homes, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property and in the age to come, everlasting life” (Mk 10:29-30).

Mothering Sunday

Mother's day was celebrated on Sunday 31st March. Here we have the liturgical explanation for the Mothering tradition, and some suggestions to honour mothers.

It is St. Paul's words in the Mass of Laetare Sunday that gives Mothering Sunday its name. He speaks of "that Jerusalem which is above . . . which is our mother," On this day, everyone paid a solemn visit to his mother church, and left an offering there at the altar. The introit, communion and tract of the Mass speak of the heavenly Jerusalem where Christians will raise their songs of joy. Heaven, the heavenly Jerusalem, has so often been likened to and represented as a garden full of flowers, that on this day the Church used to bless the loveliest of flowers, the rose. The word "mothering" came to have other associations; it became a feast day for the mothers of families. All the children mainly working in the fields who were away from home went back on that day to visit their mothers, taking with them a present, a gift, or something to eat, A mothering cake was often a special gift. Exactly what this was made of seems uncertain, but was highly decorated and adorned. In return, the mother would prepare for the

visitors a dish of rice pudding, only made with grains of wheat instead of rice. There are relics of the origins of Mothering Sunday still left, but there is no reason why it should not be more widely noted and given as much attention as is the mother's birthday.



*Pope Francis' tweet for
"International
Mother's day"
8th March 2019*

*"Women make the world
beautiful, they protect it
and keep it alive.*

*They bring the grace of
renewal, the embrace of
inclusion and the courage
to give of oneself".*

**There are many mothers in Serra, here
and throughout the world... Thank you all.**

**Serra needs your help!
Our Catholic population is increasing. We
need more priests and religious, their
numbers are declining**

You, by joining Serra can assist in a more formal way of attracting vocations.

You can join us at our masses for vocations.

You can be involved in the many events we promote to assist our bishops and vocations directors.

You can further develop your faith by being involved in discussions and listening to talks on faith subjects.

You can become a friend of those who are likeminded in the propagation of our faith.

You, most importantly, can join us in prayer for vocations. Contact us through our [website](#) or listings at the end of this newsletter.

Don't just sit there, You can join us.

"Rosary for Vocations"

On the last Saturday of every month, you are invited to join the world in a recitation of the Rosary for vocations.

The Rosary continues; on Saturdays April 27, May 25, June 23rd from Mexico City, July 27th at 2.00pm. GMT

Join us free at:

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

Use Access Code: 314-315-91

World Day of prayer for Vocations

Vigil for Vocations

May 9th – 10th

Traditionally our Vigil for Vocations will take place at various parishes throughout Great Britain on the Thursday or Friday in preparation for the Holy Father's vocations message on Good Shepherd Sunday (12th). Contact your nearest Serra club for details

56th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

12th May 2019

***"The courage to take a risk for God's promise"
Focusing on the fruitful experience of the Synod
devoted to young people last October***

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly celebrate vocations to ordained ministry and religious life in all its forms. Many parishes and religious institutes including Serra commemorate this day with prayer for vocations and vocation promotion events. Considering that 73% of women and men professing final vows participated in parish activities and 88 % served in one or more parish ministries before entering religious life, our participation in activities that mark this special day is essential. Ask parishes for the opportunity to hold vigils, speak, pray, provide bulletin inserts, prayer cards, and conversation before and after Masses.

Invite our young people to be involved in our liturgical ministries as altar servers, readers, eucharistic ministers etc.

An extract from the Holy father's message:

"And yet, there can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Do not yield to fear, which paralyzes us before the great heights to which the Lord points us. Always remember that to those who leave their nets and boat behind, and follow him, the Lord promises the joy of a new life that can fill our hearts and enliven our journey"

The Holy Father's message : [here](#)

Liverpool

Thursday 6th June

On Thursday June 6th the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, OP, Archbishop of Liverpool, will celebrate Mass for deceased Serrans in the Cenacle Chapel, Lance Lane, Liverpool L15 6TW at 6-30 pm. This will be followed by a buffet and social evening. All are welcome.

An evening with Serra

It was a special evening for South Herts Serra Club when Sr. Mary Joachim attended in March. Sr. Mary Joachim, who had been a sister in the congregation of Mother Teresa, runs The Mission of Hope in Ethiopia and was back in her home town of Watford whilst on a sabbatical in the UK. Sr Joachim gave a most absorbing and engaging talk on her missionary work and the difficulties and dangers she faces in the area she covers.



Sr Joachim was born in Watford in 1959 and her mother Helen was a member of the Serra club in the 80's. She was baptised at Holy Rood RC Church and attended Holy Rood RC Primary School followed by St Michael's Catholic High School. During her teens in Our Lady & St Michael's parish, she participated in many parish activities and became a member of the Legion of Mary, visiting patients in Leavesden Hospital. The parish priest at the time, Fr Gerard Mulvaney, played a very important figure in the development of her vocation and in 1980 she joined the Missionaries of Charity – later the Congregation of Mother Theresa.



Her vocation saw her spend some 19 years in Eastern Europe and whilst in Poland was appointed Provincial Superior. Having spent six years in this appointment, she felt the need to return to carry out God's work amongst those in need and she carried out her mission in India and the Philippines where she looked after psychiatric patients living on the streets. With her ever desire to help those most in need, she felt God was asking her "to serve those no one serves, in places to which no one wishes to go".

With this calling, in 2011 she was sent to the Somali region in Ethiopia at the invitation of the local Bishop. There she met and worked together with a Missionary priest who had lived in Gode for six years and who had requested assistance in vain from various religious congregations. To assist her work Sr Joachim established the charity of The Mission of Hope. Situated in South East Ethiopia and 700km away from the nearest Catholic Church, Gode is a military town. She works with women and mothers who have been affected by HIV and illness, prostitution, war and conflicts and a lack of resources such as clean water.

Sr. Joachim is working with these women and is offering them support and friendship, an opportunity to learn new skills and crafts which enable them to earn a living and provide for their families and medical advice and support for themselves and their children.



In 2015, the Mission started to work with these women and their children offering them opportunity to immediately leave the world of prostitution and begin the road to recover their dignity by joining Project Tamara. This project enables the women to have their numerous health issues dealt with and they are invited to learn a skill and to have their children looked after while the mothers are in training. If you would like to share in the Mission through prayer, donations or as volunteer missionaries please contact; trustees.missionofhope@gmail.com

The 77th Serra International Convention
June 19-23, 2019

Contact information for the clubs of
Serra Great Britain

One of the world's largest cities, and the most populous in North America, Mexico City offers a wide variety of attractions, activities and experiences for all visitors to its vast expanse, with great ethnic, architectural, topographical and ecological diversity. It presents a glimpse of the long and rich history of the Mexican capital, from pre-Hispanic times and the colonial era to contemporary life in a city that never ceases to surprise.

Our venue will be **The Hilton Mexico City Reforma Hotel**, modern, beautiful and offering top quality services. Mexico City is home to over 100 art galleries, dozens of theatres and concert halls, and more than 150 museums -- the largest metropolitan concentration of museums in the world! These feature important works and exhibits representing Mexican history and culture; major artists from all over the world take their place alongside these. We invite you to visit Our Lady at her shrine at the **Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, just over 5 miles away from the hotel. As a special highlight of our convention program, buses will take all convention attendees to Mass at the basilica on Friday, June 21. If art and history are not really your thing, enjoy shopping or dining in exclusive areas. The opportunities for safe and exciting adventure are endless in Mexico City. The Serrans of Mexico welcome you most warmly to this enchanting part of the world! Full details [here](#)

Serra GB Conference 2019
4th - 6th October

By popular request our conference will be held at the Lancashire Manor Hotel, Wigan. Further details of programme and booking forms will be available soon. The Serra GB conference is an opportunity to learn more about our faith from speakers sharing their experiences either religious or lay persons especially those which demonstrate Christian principles. It is a time to enjoy our speakers, liturgical celebrations with our friends and renew friendships.



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

Manchester

We meet 1st Tuesdays of the month 2pm at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Davyhulme Rd, Manchester. M41 7DS
email; serramanchester@gmail.com tel; 0161 928 2029

North Cheshire

We meet 1st and 3rd Thursdays of month 7.30pm at Christ Church, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK83Dye
email; serra.northcheshire@outlook.com tel; 0161 442 3876

South Lancs

For further information on Serra club of South Lancs
email; secretary@serragreatbritain.org.uk
or phone: 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 St Joseph's convent, Lawside Rd, Dundee DD36XY.
email; serra.dunkeld@hotmail.com tel; 01382 322920

Glasgow

We meet 1st and 3rd Fridays, August to June at 7.30pm 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: 01505 321005

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



