# Serra GB

# focus

# June 2026





***"Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest"***

***Matthew 11:28***

***To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.***

***To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church.***

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

***Consider joining our Serran apostolate contact the editor***
***Alex Duncan: serra.glasgow@aol.com***

***Under the patronages of the Most Reverend Richard Moth Archbishop of Westminster and Most Reverend William Nolan Archbishop of Glasgow.***
***For more information visit: http://www.serragreatbritain.org.uk***

**In early 2026, Pope Leo XIV emphasized that young people should not be afraid to ask God what He is calling them to, whether to priesthood, religious life, marriage, or family life. He urged youth to "Be open to what the Lord has in store. Let God lead and guide you."**

## Holy Father's Vocations Message 2026: "The Interior Discovery of God's Gift"



**For the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday April 26th, 2026, Pope Leo XIV released a message titled "The Interior Discovery of God's Gift," calling vocations an "adventure of love and happiness". He urged the faithful to nourish their calling through prayer, silence, and daily relationships with God, emphasizing that vocations are not impositions but divine gifts.**

### Key elements of the Holy Father's message:

**Interior Life & Prayer: The Pope emphasized that cultivating an interior life, silence, and prayer is essential to recognize and respond to God's call.**

**"Gift" to be Nurtured: Vocations are not static, but a path to be nurtured daily, not just a one-time, "given" item.**

**Call to Action: He called on families, parishes, and educators to create environments where vocations can be welcomed, nourished, and protected.**

**"Good Shepherd Sunday": The message for Good Shepherd Sunday encourages focusing on Christ who gives his life for his sheep, highlighting that life is beautiful when following Him.**

**Youth & Courage: Earlier, at the SEEK 2026 conference, Pope Leo encouraged young people not to be afraid of their vocations, whether priesthood, religious life, or marriage, and to trust that God knows their deepest longings**

**His message strongly highlights the need to combat the "deafening noise of the world" with inner quiet and divine dialogue. Pope Leo XIV message**

**and on our website at www.Serragreatbritain.org.uk**

## Sunday, April 26, World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

**Pope Leo presided over the Mass of priestly ordaination of 8 men in St. Peter's Basilica.**
**Two days earlier the 8 men gathered at St. John Lateran Basilica for a prayer vigil for vocations, themed "The Inner Discovery of God's Gift." This theme echoes Pope Leo's message, which carries the same title, published for the 63rd World Prayer Day for Vocations.**
**The Holy father was not able to be present at the Vigil. A communication from the Congregation for the Clergy shared his "fatherly closeness" to the initiative, which he spiritually accompanies, seeing it as "a living sign of communion and ecclesial synergy in service of vocations."**

**Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung Sik, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, to which Serra International is aggregated attended the vigil together with Cardinal Baldo Reina, the Pope's Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome, The liturgy was led by the Roman Major Seminary and accompanied by the Diocesan Choir, The vigil featured moments of listening to the Word of God, testimonies and a special involvement of young people.**



~~**Vigils for Vocations**~~

## Vigils for Vocations

**23rd/24th April 2026**
**Throughout Great Britain and internationally.**

**We have many vigils for vocations being held at various times and venues throughout the year. The vigils which take place on the Thursday or Friday preceeding Good Shepherd Sunday, were importantly developed to coincide with the Holy Father's message for vocations 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.**
**~~This~~The Vigil here was notable and inclusive of a goodly number of young people.**

***"Lord, grant us many holy priests and consecrated men and women and faithful married couples***

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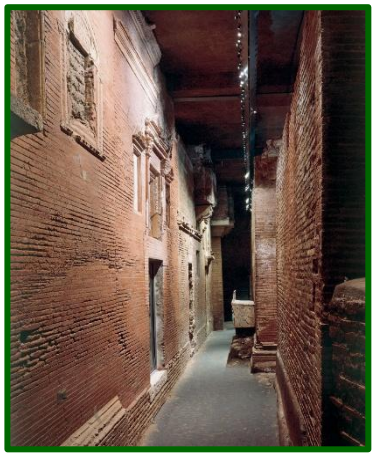
# The Scavi




Recently, I met up with a priest friend, now retired, and started reminiscing over past encounters. On this occasion we highlighted our meeting many years ago in Rome, the Vatican, St Peter's Basilica.



Among the other memorable stories and sights, we shared our unforgetable memories of a visit to the Vatican Necropolis referred to as the Scavi.



The Tomb of St Peter is here in this City of the dead, which had remained inaccessible and untouched for sixteen centuries.
Beneath the floor of the Constantinian basilica and of course beneath St Peter's Basilica this massive Renaissance building built in the 16th century over those foundations. We rediscover the roots of the Roman Church, which sprang from this land watered by the blood of the Holy Protomartyrs. It is here that Saint Peter was crucified upside down and buried in a simple rock tomb, and here many popes are buried. This is where we return to the dawn of Christianity in the West. It is upon the humble tomb of the Galilean Fisherman that this majestic basilica rises, the largest church on earth, serving both as a treasure chest that preserves it and as a home that gathers all believers.

It is here in the Scavi that we encounter the tomb, that contained the body of Peter. It lies in the western section containing many other burial sites from the first and second centuries alongside that of the apostle.

But not only the tomb but the bones of St Peter. The revered relics of the Apostle Peter, were discovered here in the 1940's some 5-12 meters beneath the floor and high altar of St. Peter's Basilica. The bones can be seen by projecting a lazer beam within the tomb. (*not always available as part of the tour for obvious reasons*.)



If you ever had doubts about your faith, see this, return to the floor of the basilica and look up to the Copula, the dome of St Peter's and read the 2 meter high words "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church"



***…..Alex***

**There is a poem by Pope St John Paul II describing this Magnificant Basilica.**



***Our feet meet the earth in this place;***
***there are so many walls,***
***so many colonnades,***
***yet we are not lost.***
***If we find meaning and oneness, it is the floor that guides us.***
***It joins the spaces of this great edifice, and joins the spaces within us,***
***who walk aware of our weakness and defeat.***
***Peter, you are the floor, that others may walk over you.***
***not knowing where they go.***
***You guide their steps***
***so that spaces can be one in their eyes,***
***and from them thought is born.***
***You want to serve their feet that pass***
***as rock serves the hooves of sheep.***

*The rock is a gigantic temple floor,*
*the cross a pasture.*



# *The Month of June dedicated to the Sacred Heart.*

**In each edition of the *focus* I emphasise "Adoration for Vocations" and over the years I have known many priests who owe their priestly vocation to spending time at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and many priests, religious sisters and brothers who consider time spent at adoration as time to reflect and spiritually grow their priesthood and consecrated lives.**

**Our Holy Father emphasizes that the answer to our deepest struggles and longings is encountering Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. "Even when we do not feel his presence, our faith tells us that he is there." To entrust our struggles to Jesus, we have to spend time with him in prayer. We have to have a relationship with him. In quiet, we can speak honestly about what is in our hearts. During Eucharistic adoration, you can look at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and know that he looks at you with love.**

## The Diocese of Westminster




**On Good Shepherd Sunday, a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Richard Moth was read in parishes across the Diocese. In his letter, the Archbishop called on the faithful to pray for priestly vocations. The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is an aspect of parish life in many parts of the Diocese. Adoration provide excellent opportunities for prayer for priestly vocations.**

**The praying of the Rosary is a part of many people's lives of prayer. I invite parishes to form groups of people who will commit to praying the Rosary for vocations to priesthood, whether this be together or alone but united with others through prayer.**



**Our Lord often speaks to us gently in silence. Whether through adoration, reading Scripture, talking to him, looking for those little spaces of time where we can be with him, little by little, we learn to hear his voice to feel his presence both within and through the people that he sends to us.**
**…….. *Alex***

## It's only a game with pupils from our School's projects.



The object of the game was first of all to get pupils to think about what were their goals in life, then which of these were the most important, and then how different careers/jobs matched up to these high importance goals. Then they were asked to consider how the vocation of priest or religious also matched up to these goals.

step 1. each pupil in the group invited to write down their goal in life on a postcard. (e.g. be happy; be popular; make money; job satisfaction; recognition; security)
step 2. then group work together to arrange their cards into a pyramid of importance (most important at top; then next two; then next three; then bottom four)
step 3 ask a pupil to write their preferred career/job on a card and place this above the metre stick
step 4 then use the top three important goals and place them below the metre stick according to the extent that the career delivers on each goal (from 0% to 100%)
step 5 do the same with another careers/job, then ask them to do the same for a priest, then a religious.



This exercise generates not just much individual involvement, it also generates considerable discussion and group work in deciding on the pyramid of importance. Finally it is very interesting to see how they place their cards when considering the priesthood and religious life, providing many

opportunities for Serrans to contribute to their understanding and sometimes their misunderstanding of the nature of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. ……*Ricky*



## "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.***

# *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 the zoom based conference 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.**

**Our next annual conference will take place on Sunday 4th October 2026 using the Zoom platform.**

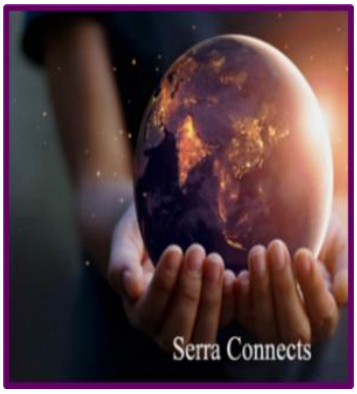
***Mary. Mother of vocations. Pray for us.***
***St Junipero Serra. Pray for us.***



## The Serran Magazine April 2026

**The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV's special prayer intention for April 2026 was for priests in crisis. In this issue, we offer signs to watch for when clergy struggles, and practical ways to support their mental and physical well-being.**

***April 2026 issue***




## Serra Connects

**Welcome to the latest edition of Serra Connects! We hope you enjoy this edition's pilgrimage with Serra across the globe. We bring you inspiring stories, meaningful updates, and warm connections from the Serra family worldwide. Simply click the link select your preferred language and enjoy reading.** ***April 2026 edition***

## *82nd International Convention. "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**



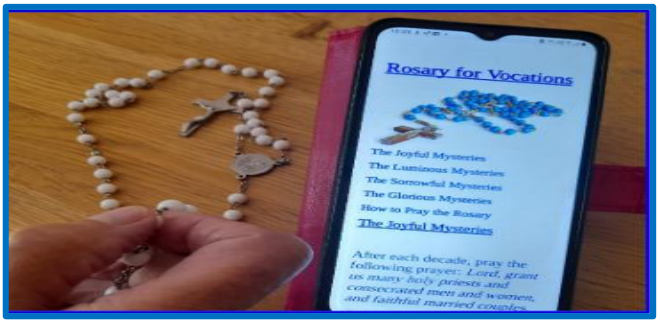

## An opportunity to join us internationally

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, June 13th, July 11th, August 8th 2026, at 5.00pm GMT**. Serra Meets broadcasts accesse at Serra MEETS.

All past talks are recorded and posted on the Serra International You Tube channel, click this. link and make your choice. .

## 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 27th June 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***

## MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

**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

**An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger." The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?" "Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly. "Okay," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff – grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?" The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea." To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't**

**know shit?" And then she went back to reading her book.**

## 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.**