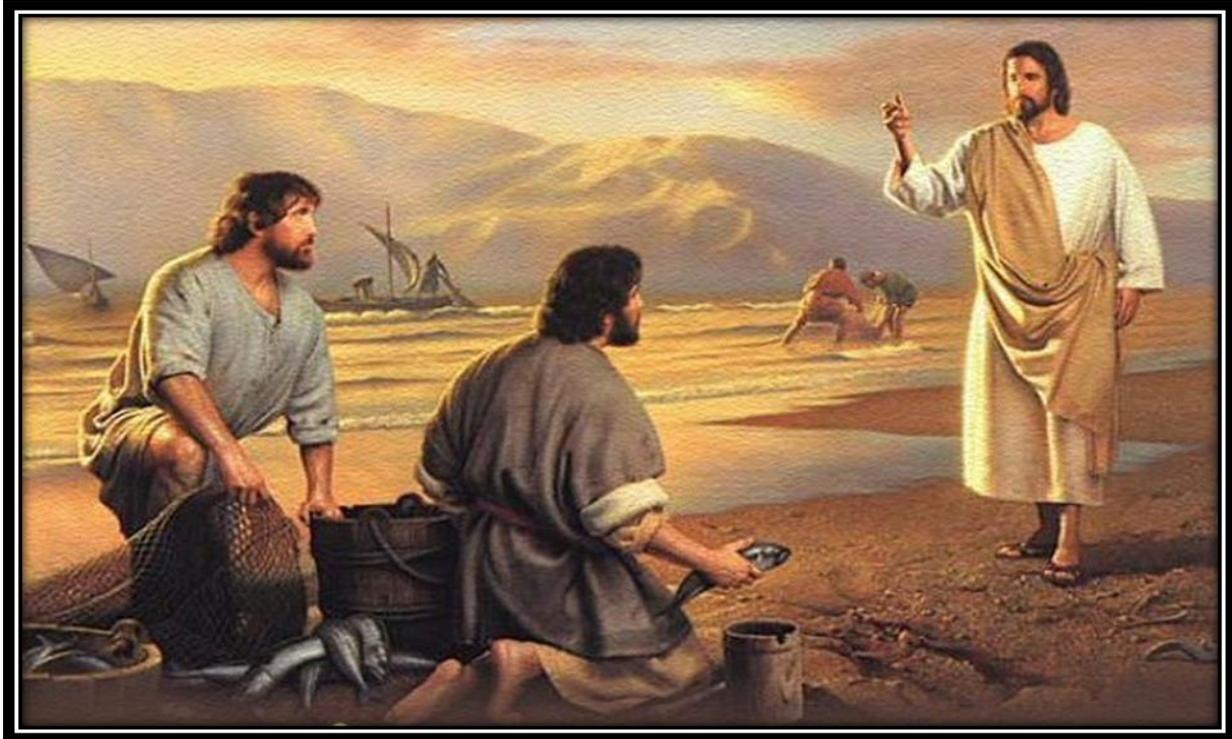




# Serra GB

*focus*

*February 2019*



*“From now on it is people you will be men” Luke 5:11*

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](mailto: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: [serragb.org.uk](http://serragb.org.uk)*

**“Do not be afraid it is men you will be catching”**

Very often when preparing liturgies for vocations masses we look for Gospel readings which are vocations oriented. In this Gospel we have the call of Jesus to Peter, who together with Andrew, James and John were the first four to be called. The Gospel of Mark places the call of the first disciples after the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus (Mk 1:16-20). Luke places it after the fame of Jesus was already extended across the whole region. For us, a very meaningful gospel!

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' When they had done this, they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man. 'For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will be catching.....Luke 5:1-11*

**“Do not be afraid”**

*As Serrans we should not be afraid to catch people to join our apostolate in order to attract more to hear that divine call to serve as priests, deacons or consecrated religious.*

**“This is our apostolate this is our mission”.**

*Through our baptism we are called to evangelise and in Serra by extension we are called to holiness through prayer, growth and development of our faith. An invitation to new laity to increase our membership would enabling us to do more and encourage more prayer for vocations. It is important for us to “Put out into the deep” and invite lay people to enjoy their faith by being involved with us in our mission and friendship. Many of us have been in Serra for thirty, forty and even fifty years and made lifelong friendships. Let’s invite others to enjoy our work and be part of that friendship.*

*As we put into practice our mission it also is important to appreciate and recognise our chaplains and their role in guiding us in our daily work. It is easy for us to make mistakes; the guidance of our chaplains keeps us on the right track regarding the way we do our work and on issues related to the teaching of the Church.*

*At this point I would thank all our chaplains throughout Great Britain and in particular Fr Tony Cogliolo who has been our guiding light for over twenty year, not only as a*

*club chaplain but as our National chaplain presiding at every National Conference in that time.*

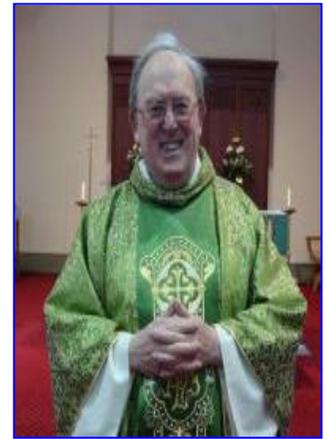
**Fr. Tony Cogliolo National Chaplain to Serra GB.**

**B.A. (Politics and Modern History) M.A. (Theology)**

**Fr Tony has recently been awarded a Doctorate in Religious Studies by the University of Wales.**

*“Fr Tony your encouragement inspires us, our deepest thanks”*

*pp GB Serrans..... Alex*



**This article first appeared in the Westminster Record in April 2015. Fr Derek was a newly ordained priest and today is Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Joseph, Kingsland, London. Listen to his homilies.**

**Many of his thoughts should be lived out in our daily lives without being afraid. “Do not be afraid”**

**Called to serve, Fr Derek Hyett.**

This time last year I was a newly ordained deacon living and working in Homerton, East London. As I type, I’m the Assistant priest to the four parishes of Hemel Hempstead.

When I told a parishioner in Homerton that I’d been appointed to Hemel they commented how lucky I was, and that Hampstead was a lovely part of London and would I remember Hackney? They hadn’t heard of Hemel Hempstead, and nor really had I. After the excitement of being ordained to the priesthood by the Cardinal in the Cathedral last June, the summer evaporated, and I was soon packing boxes and en route to Hertfordshire.

During the year in Homerton as a seminarian, deacon, and a newly-ordained priest, I learnt so much about the love people have for the priesthood, and the love of a community for a priest and his family. My family are not Catholics, but I remember so vividly the day I first celebrated Mass, and the amazing party that followed. Many parishioners thanked my Mum for giving me to the Church and this moved both of us greatly. I suppose from that moment I became aware that my life as a priest wasn't so much about me, or what I wanted to do or achieve, but rather about serving the people of God, whatever the challenges may be.

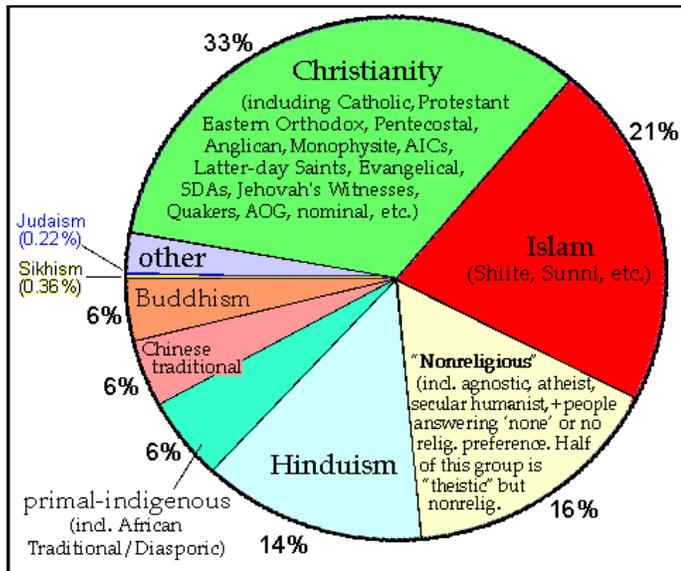
So now my arrival in Hemel seems like a distant memory. Seven months in, what are the joys and challenges of life and ministry here? Often friends who are not priests ask me what a typical week looks like. I’m yet to find a typical

week, or even a typical day for that matter! It's true to say that Hemel is a place of contrasts, four diverse parish communities discovering how to live and work together.

We also have three primary schools, a large secondary school, a hospital, countless nursing and residential homes. I undertake home visits, catechesis, Masses, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals; the list is potentially endless. There is no typical day, no typical week, but so many things which bring joy and show the Church alive and flourishing here. The vitality of the children and young people in our schools brings so much fun to ministry here. I love their capacity to ask wonderful questions, and be engaged about the Faith, be it positively or otherwise. The daily and weekly routine could, I suppose, sometimes be seen as rather punishing. But once again, I'm amazed at the support, love and generosity of the people here in supporting us.

So often people comment that becoming a priest is a sacrifice, thinking of all the things we've given up. For me, at least, in these early days, the opposite is true. I'm amazed every day that the Lord has called me to share in his Priesthood, I'm renewed and strengthened by Him, and the communities I'm called to serve in His name, and I'm challenged to embrace, God willing, what the next forty years or so may hold. .... Fr Derek Hyett

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



There are approximately 1.299 billion Catholics worldwide, figures taken from the Pontifical yearbook of 2018 to the end of 2016.

**"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." Quote attributed to PM Benjamin Disraeli.**

I have endeavoured to bring you the latest statistics available from various sources.

Catholics represent 50% Of the world's Christians and around 16% of the world population (7 billion). Here in the United Kingdom, our 55,000

Catholics represents 8.5% of our 66 million UK population with: -

- 32 Dioceses and some
  - 4000 Diocesan priests and 1500 Religious priests
  - 600 Deacons
  - 2100 Male religious
  - 6900 Female religious (figures rounded to nearest 100)
- For more detailed analysis relating to numbers of religious you can go to October 2018 [Vatican statistics](#).

It becomes obvious that here in Great Britain our Catholic population has remained static while our number of priests has declined.

*Pope Benedict XVI declared just before his retreat that "No longer can Europe be considered as the cradle of Christianity"*

**We need more Priests, Deacons and Religious Men and Women if we are to propagate our faith and care for our Catholic population.**

In Serra we are strong advocates of "Adoration for Vocations"



Before the blessed Sacrament or 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 think and pray for our priests and those thinking of the vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

*"The world looks to the Priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ, but everyone sees the Priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord. Immense is the greatness of the Lord! Immense is the dignity of the Priest!" .....Pope Saint John Paul II*

**Did you know that in parishes where regular Holy Hours take place, there is an increase in people discerning vocations?**

**Does your parish have Adoration for Vocations?**

## What's on in 2019

### **“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 Feb 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 23rd, July 27th at 2.00pm. GMT*

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



### 53rd World day for Communications

**24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 Facebook, Twitter or both?**

About 4 years ago at one of our national conferences at the Hope University, Liverpool, I recall Fr Jameson reflecting on communicating with the young people and asking the question, “How many of you are on Facebook?” the show of hands indicated not many. He continued with the other forms of media to advertise Serra and indeed for vocations promotion highlighting Twitter and other platforms used by our youth. Many of us will be using Facebook by now and following Pope Francis on Twitter. As he embarks on travels to The World Youth Day in Panama and asking for prayer for this very beautiful event he also Tweeted. *“This is the Network we want, a network not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free” Ever since the internet first became available, the Church has always sought to promote its use in the service of the encounter between persons, and of solidarity among all. With this message I would like to invite you once again to reflect on the foundation and importance of our being-in-relation and to rediscover, in the vast array of challenges of the current communications context, the desire of the human person who does not want to be left isolated or alone.* [read here.](#)

### Ash Wednesday, prepare for Lent

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Prepare for Lent focusing on prayer, fasting, charitable works, and assessment of a person's spiritual condition. Lent can help us look at ourselves honestly. As we move through Lent, we will discover mercy and joy along with the negatives, but right now, before Lent begins, we can relax into the realization that we're “still us.” We don't have to try hard to be anyone else. We are the “us” God loved before we knew who God is or understood who we are. We are still us, created from love, for love. And love is not about making this our best year ever. Love is not about accomplishing a list of goals. Love makes it possible to be good enough today, this moment, because we are never alone. We are plus the abundance of God. May we move toward Lent knowing that its practices will help us leave our burdens with Jesus. He welcomes all burdens

whether they are serious sins to confess or personal to-do lists that make us impatient with ourselves.

### 34th World Youth Day 2019, Panama.

**22 - 27 January 2019**

The theme of the Holy Father's message is Mary's response to God's call, “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

Her words are a brave and generous “yes”. It is the positive reply of one who understands the secret of vocation – to go beyond oneself and place oneself at the service of others. Our lives only find meaning in service to God and to other people. The Holy Father makes reference to vocations, the vocation to marriage, the priesthood and consecrated life. [Read more](#)

### World Day for Consecrated Life

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019**

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. It will be celebrated in parishes on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.** Remember in our prayers all those who are discerning their vocation in life, particularly those whom the Lord is calling to consecrated life. May they be given the wisdom to hear God's call and the courage to respond generously.

### Vigil for Vocations

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>**

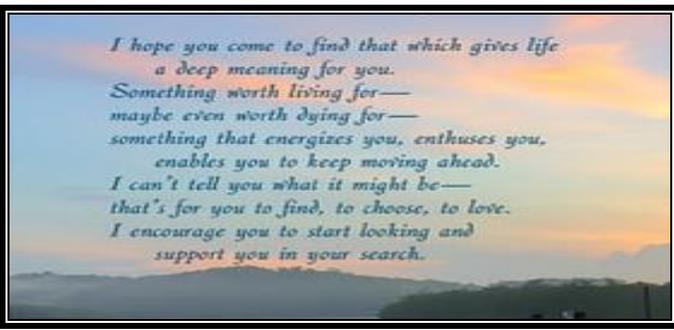
Traditionally our Vigil for Vocations will take place at various parishes throughout Great Britain on the Thursday or Friday in preparation for the Holy Father's vocations message on Good Shepherd Sunday. Contact your nearest Serra club for details

### 56<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

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, in religious education programs etc.

*We will bring to on our web site the Holy Father's message (when released from Vatican).*



### **Fifteenth Ordinary General Assembly**

**October 2018,**

The Ordinary Synod of Bishops met to discuss the theme “Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment” in particular the relationship between young people, faith and vocation. The final report is now available. However, of some 165 paragraphs you can read 13 paragraphs of Chapter II “[The mystery of the vocation](#)” The full report is available if you wish to read [here](#)

### **The 77th Serra International Convention 2019**

**June 19-23,**

Serra International Convention 2019 will be held at the Hilton Hotel Reforma in Mexico City. A highlight of the convention will be the half day visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on June 21 with Mass and a private viewing of St. Juan Diego’s cloak that bears the image of Our Lady. Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExNRbLpIK20> . The Basilica is the largest pilgrimage shrine dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and the Holy Land is second only to the Basilica. Booking forms and programme will be available from Serra international soon.

### **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.



**Don't just sit there, join us.**

### **Contact information for the clubs of Serra Great Britain**

#### **District 60**

##### **Liverpool**

We meet at 6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Cenacle Convent, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Liverpool L15 6TW.e  
mail; [serra.liverpool@gmail.com](mailto:serra.liverpool@gmail.com) tel: 0151 724 6249

##### **Manchester**

We meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays of the month 2pm at Our Lady’s Parish Centre, Davyhulme Rd, Manchester. M41 7DS  
email; [serramanchester@gmail.com](mailto:serramanchester@gmail.com) tel; 0161 928 2029

##### **North Cheshire**

We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of month 7.30pm at Christ Church, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK83Dye  
email; [serra.northcheshire@outlook.com](mailto:serra.northcheshire@outlook.com) tel; 0161 442 3876

##### **South Lancs**

We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of month 7pm at *Sons of Divine Providence*, Lane Roby Mill, Up Holland, Lancashire, WN8 0QR.  
email; [serra.southlancs@gmail.com](mailto:serra.southlancs@gmail.com) tel;01695 622598

#### **District 62**

##### **South Herefordshire.**

We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:serra.dunkeld@hotmail.com) tel; 01382 322920

##### **Glasgow**

We meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, August to June at 7.30pm Millhill, Cardonald and University of Glasgow Chaplaincy (as programmed)  
email; [serra.glasgow@aol.com](mailto:serra.glasgow@aol.com) tel; 0141 571 8313

##### **Paisley**

We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7.30pm Sept to June. in the Diocesan Centre, Cathedral Precinct, Incle Street, Paisley, PA11HR.  
email; [serra.paisley@ntlworld.com](mailto:serra.paisley@ntlworld.com) tel; 01505 321005

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



