

New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery

Over a series of interconnecting galleries, a mixture of significant artworks, church plates, liturgical vestments, furniture, objects and personal effects tell the surprising, complex story of Australia's only monastic town.

Museum, Art Gallery and Gift Shop

9.30am – 4.30pm Daily. (closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

Ticket purchases give unlimited all day access to the Museum and Art Gallery.

Daily Guided Town Tours

Depart from the Museum: 11.00am and 1.30pm (approx 2 hours)

Special tours can be arranged for groups of over 10, please email info@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.

For more information please contact:

New Norcia Visitor Centre

T (08) 9654 8056 or

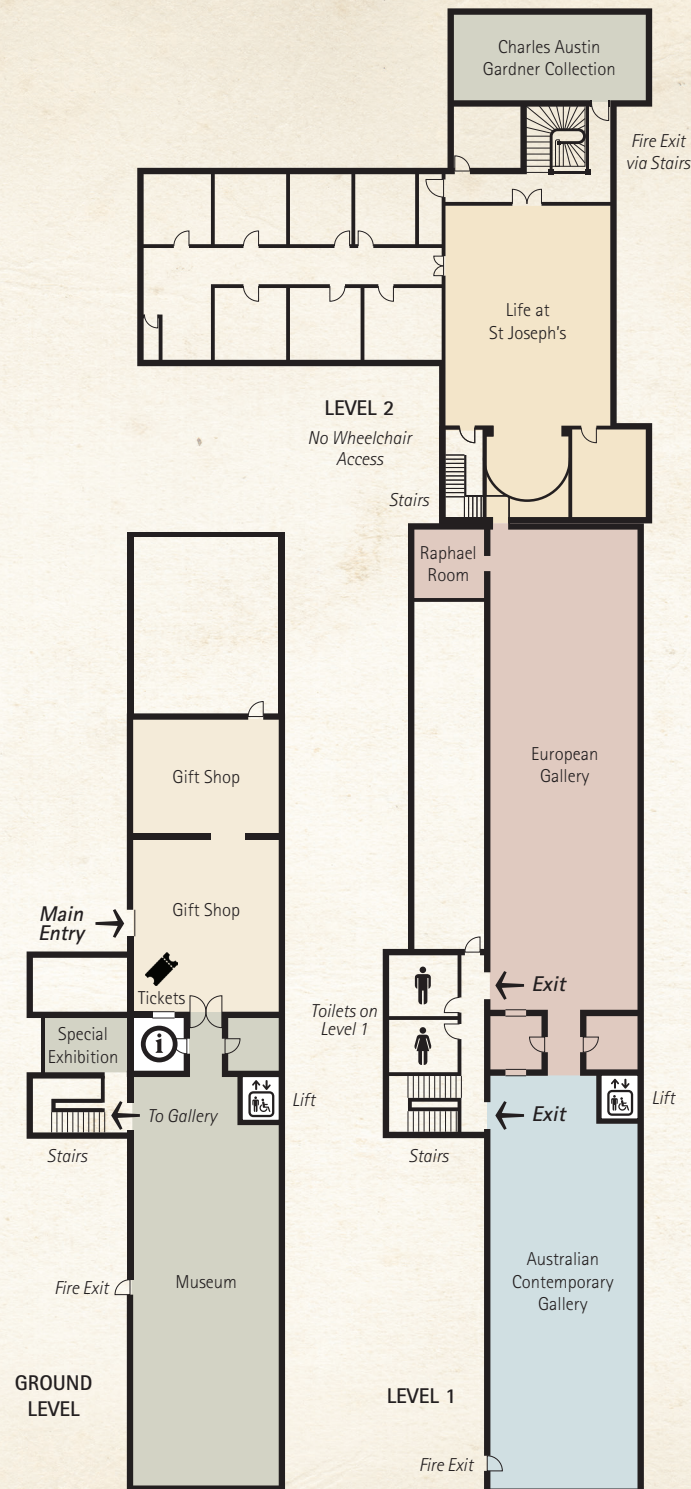
E info@newnorcia.wa.edu.au

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia thanks you for visiting.

All proceeds from purchases made during your day at New Norcia are used by the monks to help preserve this historical and spiritual treasure – Australia's only monastic town.



New Norcia Road, New Norcia, Western Australia 6509
www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au



New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery

Visit the fascinating collections of memorabilia, religious artworks, botanical drawings and personal reflections.



Founded in 1847 by Spanish Benedictine monks, New Norcia, originally settled as an Aboriginal mission, has been a centre of a vast pastoral enterprise, a place of education for both Indigenous and European children and a site of culture and devotion. The town encompasses extravagant buildings, olive trees and church bells coupled with a peaceful tranquil atmosphere.



Triptych of the Annunciation - 1997, Alan Oldfield

What was once St Joseph's School for Girls, the complex now comprises the museum, a gift shop and the visitor centre on the ground floor. Upstairs are further displays of church memorabilia, an exhibition that reflects on the first hand experiences of the students of St Joseph's school and a very fine collection of Charles Austin Gardner botanical drawings.

Museum

1846–1900 – Rosendo Salvado Era

The exhibition guides visitors through the first 50 years of the mission. High art embroidered vestments, paintings and metal work from European benefactors are displayed alongside quieter lithographs, engravings and maps of the mission.

Early farm equipment, blacksmiths' tools (many made by the monks), survey material and telegraphic instruments important to the town's development, together with medical and pharmaceutical goods and equipment are also shown. They sit alongside displays of craft industries including wine-making, pasta-making, honey-making and the olive oil for which a silver medal was awarded to New Norcia at the Franco-British Exhibition in London in 1908.

Of special interest are the 19th century photographs of the mission's Yued people and pioneer monks which tell a visual story of early mission life.

Art Gallery

New Norcia Art Gallery houses one of the largest collections of moveable religious art in Australia. There are paintings by Spanish and Italian masters and contemporary Australian artists, as well as gifts from the Queen of Spain and artefacts tracing New Norcia's rich history.

Australian Contemporary Gallery

The collection of contemporary Australian religious art housed at the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery is a large, surprisingly good body of artwork that has been steadily building since 1985. It is one of the largest collections of religious art in Australia. A number of the works on display are prizewinners from the Mandorla Prize for Religious Art, an art award organised by the Mandorla Centre for Inner Peace in Fremantle, whose mission is to support the development of religious art in Australia.

Today the collection numbers approximately 160 artworks. The majority are paintings but there are some photographs, several sculptures and one video work. Major local artists represented include Howard Taylor, Robert Juniper, Brian McKay, Miriam Stannage and Roy de Maistre.



European Gallery

European Gallery

This is comprised principally of Post-Renaissance Italian and Spanish works dating from the 16th century. Some of the pieces were selected by New Norcia's founder, Bishop Salvado, during his trips to Europe; others were collected for him by agents, and some were gifted to the community. Many of these paintings were damaged when thieves cut them from their frames in 1986, but most have since been restored and many are on display.

The Raphael Room houses the cartoon entitled, "*Head of an Apostle*". This work is part of a larger scene depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It was commissioned by Pope Leo X in the 16th century along with a number of other preliminary works which were then woven into tapestries in Brussels. The tapestry "*Descent of the Holy Spirit*" currently hangs in the Capella Paolina in the Vatican. Over its almost 60 years at New Norcia this painting has been given a number of unofficial titles: *Study in Distemper* and *Head of St John the Baptist*. This painting is the only one of its kind in Australia – either in public or private hands.