

# The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

August 2023



## A New Norcia Double Celebration

*It was a happy double celebration in St Gertrude's College chapel Saturday 29th July, with the wedding of Nora McGee and Brian Linke, followed by the baptism of their six and a half week old twins Ava and Isaac.*

They were blessed with the rain holding off for Nora's arrival. It was a special day for Nora and Brian with family having travelled from Ireland joining with their local family.

For family who were unable to be present, the ceremony was live streamed back to Ireland.

The wedding completed, we turned to the two little cherubs for their baptism. They were the perfect pair, not a single peep coming from either.

With all the official parts of the day successfully completed, the whole family retired to the Hostel, where Abbot John had prepared their wedding dinner. By all accounts, the celebration continued well into the night.

**Congratulations Nora and Brian from all your New Norcia family, and welcome to Ava and Isaac, the two newest members of the parish!**





## Christmas in July Dinner

On the 20th of July New Norcia hosted a Christmas in July Dinner in St Ildephonsus' small dining Room for 23 guests. Organised by the same local ladies who organised the Coronation High Tea – Emma, Sharyn, Clair, the dinner was a wonderful success.

Guests started the night off by enjoying pre-dinner drinks and platters of canapés, mini bruschetta and vol-au-vents at the bar in the large dining room and also having a look through the Memorabilia Room and Chapel whilst mingling. They then moved to the small dining room for a buffet dinner.

The warm fire in the beautifully restored open fireplace, Christmas decorations and delicious traditional Christmas dinner created the atmosphere of a traditional "wintery" Christmas and was enjoyed by all.

The ladies thanked New Norcia for "completely surpassing all our expectations twice now" and we are looking forward to their next event in September – "Spring in New Norcia".



## 'La Table de l'Abbé' The Abbot's Table - SPRING

Saturday 18 November 2023

*While monastic life may seem to be in stark contrast to the restaurant scene, it is the spirit of hospitality which is at the heart of them both. Monastic life – and indeed, cooking – are about being in tune with, and having respect for, the rhythm, balance and produce of the seasons.*

This series features a set four-course menu of fresh seasonal produce and showcases New Norcia wood-fired bakery products, olive oil, Abbey Ale and Abbey wines, to be shared with family and friends – or strangers – in this special place, a town like no other.

In the spirit of community, guests will sit together at long tables throughout the venue.

- Pre-dinner drinks begin at 6.00 p.m.
- All-inclusive dinner: \$180 per person
- When booking, please notify us of any special dietary allergies.

Please contact Joyce on 9654 8018 or at [groups@newnorcia.com.au](mailto:groups@newnorcia.com.au) for all accommodation requirements. This is for the following venues: Hostel, Guesthouse or Old Convent.





**2023 CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**

WHERE WE START MATTERS....

SEPTEMBER 3-10, 2023

*The Lord is my strength - Psalm 28:7*

Join us in acknowledging 2023 National Child Protection Week. You are invited to participate in activities that promote the safety of children and safeguarding within the church community.

**Kite Making - August**

You should have received the kite/s by now. Gather together for a fun and creative activity to decorate your kite/s and talk about the importance of child protection and safeguarding within the church community.

**Morning Tea**

Host a morning tea at your parish/agency, and display your decorated kite/s proudly. You may even want to fly it high and see it soar!!!

**Safeguarding Sunday Mass - September 10**

Masses over the weekend of September 9-10 will be dedicated to Safeguarding Sunday. A time to reaffirm our commitment to building a church of trust, safety, inclusion, and respect for all. Discover the theme of 2023 Child Protection Week through the Children's Liturgy of the Word: *Children Activity Booklet and Colour-in.*



## 11<sup>th</sup> July Solemnity of St Benedict.

This was our day to celebrate the life of our Holy Father Benedict.

There was a community morning tea at 10:00am attended by the monks present on site, oblates, guests and staff.

Father Robert travelled to Perth to celebrate mass for New Norcia oblates at the Redemptorist monastery in North Perth. The Redemptorists were very generous in inviting Father Robert to celebrate their normal morning mass, and for that to include the oblates of New Norcia.

There were about 60 people at mass, including 13 New Norcia oblates. Following the mass, the oblates then had a meal together

in a local restaurant and enjoyed catching up with each other and recent happenings at New Norcia.

Evening vespers were a solemnity for our Holy Father Benedict, followed by a barbecue dinner with the monks, oblates and two monastery residents.

Meanwhile, back at the monastery the monks followed a special timetable, which included:

- morning tea with staff, contractors and guests
- dessert at lunch
- coffee, chocolates and a whisky after lunch
- late afternoon prayer
- early Vespers and Benediction
- BBQ tea, concluding with the Salve Regina



# Olive Oil Judges Training Day

The West Australian Olive Council (WAOC) conducted a training session by Isabella Okis, Chief Judge for WAOC, for existing judges and 6 new applicants who were keen to learn the intricacies of EVOO on Sunday 6th August in the Olive Shed.

Approximately 20 people attended the training which required the participants to taste 6 individual oil samples in small blue containers. The reason blue containers are used is that it does not allow the judges to eliminate an oil because of its colour.

The judging is based on the following points:

- 1st Oil should be at room temperature of 28 degrees,
- 2nd Flavour
- 3rd Complexity of the oil, does the oil taste of fruit or tomato

A talk was delivered by Dr Monica Kehoe from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the Xylella fastidiosa, which is a bacterium that slowly chokes olive trees to death.

It has infected 20 million of Italy's 150 million olive trees, mostly in the Puglia region, which used to contribute a large amount of Italy's total olive oil production.

The Xylella fastidiosa has spread through other olive producing counties such as Spain and France. The only control is the removal of the affected trees and a safety zone around the remaining grove.

There is no evidence that this bacterium is in Australia at this time. This may be attributed to Australia's strict quarantine practices.

Lunch was a Spanish style meal of fresh salads, olive oil, cold meat and fresh bread, tables and chairs were moved out from the olive shed and into the small grove.



## Treasuries of Ragtime Piano

16 DECEMBER 2023 | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Ragtime piano was a genre of music which evolved in the southern states of the USA, drawing together African rhythms with Western harmonies. Centred around the piano, it produced much lively and exciting music with catchy syncopations and memorable melodies, which is still enjoyed by listeners to this day.

This soiree will present an array of ragtime music (including pieces by Winifred Atwell, Scott Joplin and many others), performed by New Norcia's Fr Robert Nixon. The evening will commence at 6.30pm, and a light supper and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.

TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT [NEWNORCIA.COM.AU](http://NEWNORCIA.COM.AU)



## Western Australian History Foundation Grant 2023

We are delighted to announce that the Western Australian History Foundation has granted the archives \$6,000 towards the publication of a new book in the archives' Abbey Press series.

Tom Stephens, whom you will remember as our guest speaker at the last Studies Launch, is working on the history of one of our earliest monks, Jerome Rodoreda, who is the great-great grandfather of Tom's wife, Gillian. Our thanks go to the Foundation for this very generous donation and we look forward with great excitement to the publication of Tom's book.

# Glass Houses

## The Music of Philip Glass

2 SEPTEMBER 2023 | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Philip Glass (b. 1937) is one of the most prophetic and popular composers of our times, whose influence has given birth to entire genres of music. Much of his work (including the pieces performed in this concert) is pervaded by a kind of hypnotic and transcendent mysticism, absorbing the spirituality of Eastern and Western traditions.

This recital will feature New Norcia's Fr Robert Nixon performing the major piano works of Philip Glass, including the epic *Trilogy Sonata* and the transcendent *Mad Rush*, as well as other popular pieces by this composer.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm, and a light supper and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.

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## New Norcia Vision Statement

*Sharing morning tea, with the warmth of the log fire in St Ild's, the monks recently spent a very productive morning with the managers of the various departments that make up the unique and special place that is New Norcia.*

The purpose of the gathering was to explore our vision for the future, and we are pleased to share with our readers the statement generated from our sharing:

### New Norcia Vision Statement 2023

New Norcia aims to keep at its heart the ethos of Benedictine monasticism, currently expressed through the continuing presence in the town of a small community of monks, seeking God through living by the guidance of the 6th century Rule of St Benedict – a life of prayer, work, lectio divina, hospitality, pastoral outreach and community-building, sustained by the monastic promises of obedience, stability and conversion, and enriched by its theological, spiritual and liturgical traditions. We envision that this monastic presence will continue to evolve and adapt as it owns the negative aspects of its past, assesses and deals with the difficulties of the present, and faces the opportunities, uncertainties and challenges of the future, and that it may be enriched by encouraging new vocations, our oblates, and those who desire to live and work beside us.

We envision New Norcia to be a place of:

- Welcome and inclusivity
- Prayer and worship
- Spirituality and contemplation
- Solace and safeguarding
- Outreach and care
- Respect and reconciliation
- Compassion and hope

In collaboration with its stakeholders, Monochorum Ltd (the corporate entity responsible for the governance of the business, financial and strategic operations of New Norcia) intends to extend its board of directors by recruiting non-monastic members with varied expertise, in order to generate and incorporate vibrant new approaches and insights, and to work towards a more self-supporting governance structure for the future management and development of the town. This would include ventures such as:

- The creation of a new strategic business plan to include new revenue-earning enterprises
- Adopting and implementing the Conservation Master Plan in partnership with our heritage consultants

We envision a continued commitment to the cultural development of New Norcia through sole and partnership initiatives in the following spaces:

- Research and Publications
- Education
- Indigenous
- Heritage
- Tourism
- Hospitality
- The Arts
- The Environment

## Guest-Speaking

Along with invitations to talk to the many groups that visit New Norcia, the monks are often asked to speak to various organisations in Perth, and sometimes further afield.

One such organisation is Probus – an organisation consisting of local clubs or groups of retirees – a wonderful way of staying active and engaged in one's twilight years.



Abbot John receives a token of thanks from Mandurah Probus Official.

Among various activities (reading, walking, excursions...and so on) regular meetings include a guest-speaker. After accepting an invitation to one particular group several years ago, I have been added to the list of available speakers. This year, I have accepted seven invitations, including South Perth (February), East Perth (June), Kingsley (July).

This month I braved the stormy weather on Tuesday 8th, travelling to Mandurah. It's always inspiring to meet with such groups, where one witnesses a real sense of community and mutual support. Due to the age group involved, members love to learn about the history of New Norcia, and many have visited or have some association, thus eager to hear of recent happenings and developments. Some groups follow up on my invitation to visit, arranging a bus trip, and we enjoy offering Benedictine hospitality to them.

I look forward to presenting the New Norcia story to the Woodlands and Attadale Probus Clubs later in the year.

# Current Vacancies

## HR Officer

The actual working arrangements are highly flexible, with starting and finishing times negotiable to suit individual requirements. No weekend or public holiday work is required.

Your key roles and responsibilities will include:

- Managing the recruitment and induction of new staff
- Maintaining staff files
- Preparing job descriptions and employment agreements for new staff
- Ensuring compliance with Fairwork legislation and other industrial award requirements
- Assisting with performance management when required

Formal qualifications in HR and Workplace Health and Safety, whilst not essential, are highly desirable to support this role.

To apply, visit <https://www.seek.com.au/job/68915797>

## Baker

We are currently seeking an experienced baker to join our New Norcia Bakery Team.

The successful candidate must be available to work afternoon and evenings on a rotating roster.

Weekend and public holiday work will be required.

Your key roles and responsibilities will include:

- Producing traditional breads daily, in the 130 year old wood fired oven
- Hand moulding
- Working with the other bakers to ensure a high standard of product and range
- Excellent organisational and communication skills to ensure product is delivered on time
- Maintaining a high standard of cleanliness
- Supporting other team members and foster good working relationships with other stakeholders

Subsidised on-site accommodation is available to the successful candidate.

An attractive salary based on your previous experience is available.

To apply, visit <https://www.seek.com.au/job/68916113>

# Coming Events

From August 2023

12 August 2023

Centenary of New Norcia's Pipe Organ

19 August 2023

Abbot's Table: Winter 2023

25-27 August 2023

Guesthouse Retreat: The Desert Fathers –  
The Earliest Christian Monks

2 September 2023

Glass Houses: The Music of Philip Glass

Visit our website for a complete list of  
Coming Events - [newnorcia.com.au/whats-on/  
events-calendar/current-events](http://newnorcia.com.au/whats-on/events-calendar/current-events)

## Liturgical Calendar

August 2023

Sunday 6 August

Transfiguration Of The Lord  
(Feast)  
(Ordinary Time, Week 18)

Tuesday 8 August

St Mary Of The Cross (Mackillop)  
(Solemnity)

Thursday 10 August

St Lawrence (Feast)

Friday 11 August

St Clare (Memorial)

Saturday 12 August

Anniversary Of Dedication Of  
Perth Cathedral (Feast)

Sunday 13 August

Nineteenth In Ordinary Time

Monday 14 August

St Maximilian Kolbe (Memorial)

Tuesday 15 August

Assumption Of The BVM  
(Solemnity)

Saturday 19 August

St Bernard Tolomei  
(Optional Memorial)

Sunday 20 August

Twentieth In Ordinary Time

Monday 21 August

St Pius X (Memorial)

Thursday 24 August

St Bartholomew (Feast)

Sunday 27 August

Twenty-First In Ordinary Time

Monday 28 August

St Augustine (Memorial)

Tuesday 29 August

The Passion Of St John  
The Baptist (Memorial)



**NEW NORCIA**  
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

The Chimes is a monthly publication of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia. To subscribe to the digital version, email [publications@newnorcia.com.au](mailto:publications@newnorcia.com.au).

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