

# The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

December 2023



The monastic community and everyone at New Norcia,  
wish you a very happy and holy Christmas,  
and abundant blessings in 2024.

## Wedding Celebration

*In March 2023, Oleksandr Shtohrin and Yuliia Chvorun came to us as a refugee Ukrainian couple, employed on the olive harvest. They were then offered full time employment and a house, and have continued to endear themselves to everyone who has anything to do with them.*

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm, when the temperature was a mere 41 degrees (thank God it clouded over), they were married in an intimate civil ceremony in the gardens of St Gertrude's College.

After the photographs were taken, we all moved to the Hostel for much needed drinks and a festive wedding meal, generously hosted by the Abbot representing the Benedictine community. New Norcia parishioners and visitors were treated to a slice of wedding cake – the happy couple having left for their honeymoon in Augusta.



# Fire Pump Awareness Training

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November the Grounds and Maintenance team were instructed by Rick Adams of A1 Fire Risk Services in the connection and use of the Monastery's trailer mounted firefighting booster pump.

The unit, which delivers enormous pressure to help suppress a fire, was hooked up to the fire hydrant in the Guesthouse carpark. The training is important especially now that the warm weather has arrived, along

with the warnings regarding a high-risk fire season this summer. It is imperative that the team are familiar with how to handle the equipment safely and efficiently.



L-R - Oleksandr, Rick (A1), Chris, Jim, Tyler and Dean.



Handling the hose under full pressure is a two-man task.

## Olive Oil Awards and Conference - Canberra

Australia's premier olive competition, the Australian International Olive Awards (AIOA) is run annually by the Australian Olive Association (AOA) and opened to international entries in 2017. Judging is also international, with 2023 entries evaluated by expert panels in China, Spain, France, Tunisia, New Zealand and Australia. This year's Conference and Awards night was held in Canberra.

Event Convenor and Chief Steward Trudie Michels said this year's results speak for themselves, with the average score once again more than 82. That equates to a very high Silver and continues the trend of rising quality and scores. The percentage of entries awarded medals was also up this year, with Gold or Silver accounting for 154 of the total 178. That's really impressive in such a challenging year."

"In Australian oils, the majority of aromas and flavours were classified in the 'green' spectrum - including green vegetal, herbs, fresh grass, rocket and

green tea, along with red and green apple, and green banana - many also with lovely floral notes. There were fewer riper 'tropical' spectrum oils - tropical fruits, tomato flesh, ripe banana, passionfruit, kiwi and stone fruit - most likely due to the longer, cooler ripening season, and also fewer robust oils, with most of mild to medium intensity.

AOA CEO Michael Southan said this year's competition is proof that the Australian olive industry is all about quality production.

New Norcia Olive Oil received a score of 84 out of 100 which equates to a Silver award.



(L-R) Rick and Lindy De San Miguel President Olives WA, Karen and Ian Smith from New Norcia.

# The 2024 Abbot Placid Scholar is announced!

*The Abbot Placid Spearritt Memorial Scholarship selection committee proudly announces the awarding of the 2024 Scholarship to esteemed Australian mezzo-soprano, Allegra Giagu.*



Allegra's journey into the world of opera began with her debut at the Sydney Opera House at the age of eleven. She has worked with Opera Australia and sung as a soloist with the Sydney Symphony and the Australian Chamber Orchestra amongst others.

She is an ABC Classic Artist, nominated for an Aria Award, featuring on Evergreen Ensemble's, Curious Caledonians. Allegra is also featured on the Oscar-nominated and Ivor Award-winning film soundtrack of Anna Karenina, written by Dario Marianelli; and other soundtracks, advertisements and recordings.

Her career gained international attention following Leo Schofield's selection of her as a soloist for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo's Salute to Australia, leading to a collaboration with Dame Judi Dench and Classic FM in London. This success prompted her relocation to London where she studied at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music. Allegra is now undertaking doctoral research at the University of Melbourne on eighteenth-century Iberian Music-Theatre.

In her application for the Abbot Placid Spearritt Scholarship, Allegra proposed an intriguing exploration into the musical legacy of Dom Salvado at New Norcia.

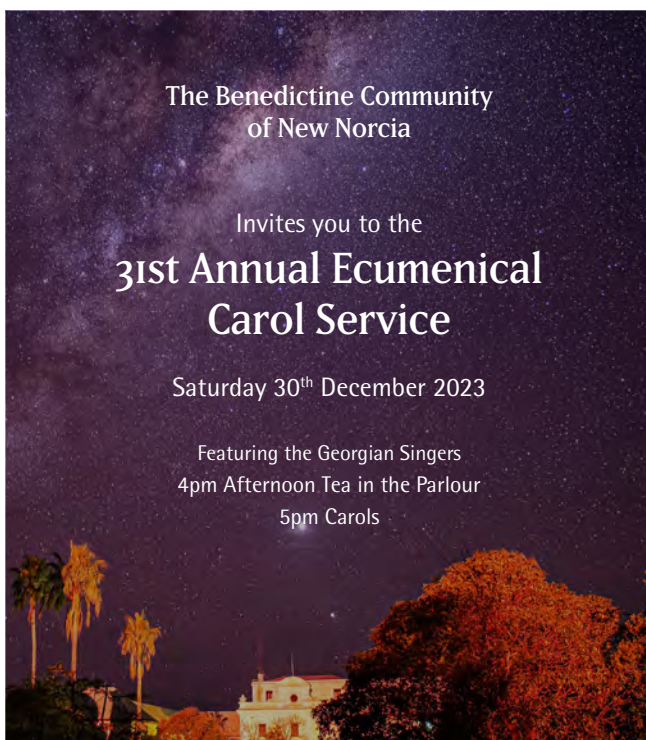
She plans to delve into his compositions, including those housed in New Norcia's archives, reflecting his unique contributions to musical traditions.

Allegra's research aims to spotlight Dom Salvado's life, highlighting his influential role in shaping a distinctive musical heritage at New Norcia. The project seeks not only to shed light on Dom Salvado's musical contributions but also aims to bring his compositions to contemporary audiences, providing a unique opportunity to revisit and celebrate an important chapter in the history of music at New Norcia.

We are excited to see how Allegra's innovative approach will enrich awareness of Dom Salvado's musical life, and we look forward with great anticipation to the performances and insights that will emerge from her research.

Watch an example of Allegra's ensemble, Mamás Bravas, this year at Bloomington Early Music Festival in the United States of America by visiting:

[mamasbravas.com.au](http://mamasbravas.com.au)  
[allegragiagu.com](http://allegragiagu.com)



The Benedictine Community  
of New Norcia

Invites you to the  
**31st Annual Ecumenical  
Carol Service**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Featuring the Georgian Singers  
4pm Afternoon Tea in the Parlour  
5pm Carols

## Christmas Trading Hours

### *Christmas Eve*

Roadhouse: closes at 3pm  
Museum & Art Gallery: 9.30am-3.30pm (no afternoon tour)

### *Christmas Day & Boxing Day*

Closed

### *Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

Roadhouse: usual trading hours  
Museum & Art Gallery: usual trading hours

### *New Year's Eve & New Year's Day*

Roadhouse: usual trading hours  
Museum & Art Gallery: usual trading hours

Administration will be closed  
Christmas Day until Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

# A different angle of New Norcia.

*On October 18<sup>th</sup>, our long-term creative partner Axiom came up with a videographer for a day of filming.*

The aim of the day was to capture video content that showcased New Norcia from a refreshing angle, focusing on the lesser-known experiences on offer.

Abbot John, Director of Visitor Services, Carmel, and a few other staff members both starred and assisted in the production. The day started at the crack of dawn, using a drone to capture New Norcia at sunrise. This was followed by a tour of New Norcia, filming a range of locations including the museum, art gallery, the monastery library, and the colleges.

Keep your eyes peeled - the New Norcia website will be updated with videos from the day soon.



## Divine Will Retreat

*From October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of 24 priests attended the Divine Will Retreat, hosted at the Benedictine Monastery Guest House. This bi-annual retreat was a great success, with the attendees stating the monastic environment, neat and orderly rooms, and the food preparation gave lots of encouragement and serenity.*

Below are some of the comments from the attendees.

*"It is amazing to see that each retreat has a great set of priests from various countries, with the preacher Fr Gabriel Barrera coming all the way from the USA for the last two years. We have a global priest/deacon group as their countries of origin are from all over the world: UK, Nigeria, Kenya, India, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Samoa, Philippines and of course Australia."*

*"I am privileged to be here. It is a wonderful experience for me and an eye opener to the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Divine Will. Thanks a lot for the opportunity given to me."*

*"The food and hospitality were excellent. Nothing to improve here."*

*"The retreat has been a very powerful and inspiring experience while the hospitality and the food were fantastic - it all tasted homemade! Please pass on my thanks, as the food really does help to provide a fruitful retreat experience."*



PRESS RELEASE for release 6 September 2023

# 2024 MANDORLA ART AWARD ENTRIES NOW OPEN

With a prize pool of over \$50,000, Mandorla is Australia's most significant thematic Christian art prize. The Mandorla Art Award actively fosters a relationship between contemporary fine artists and the writings of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Open to all artists across Australia, working in any medium, Mandorla invites artists to think laterally and with sensitivity by interpreting a new theme for each iteration of the award.

The 2024 [theme](#): *Refocus 'Let all that you do be done in love' (1 Cor. 16:14)*

## PRIZES

2024 promises to be Mandorla's most exciting award yet, with the inclusion of a major new prize category, the [New Norcia Artist Residency Prize](#). This is a unique opportunity for an artist to live and create artwork in Australia's only monastic town. In partnership with the New Norcia Benedictine Monastery, this one-month residency provides a studio, accommodation, meals and a \$10,000 artist fee.

In 2024, Mandorla will award five prize categories:

- **Mandorla Art Award Prize** – Acquisitive: **\$30,000**
- **Highly Commended Catholic Archdiocese Prize**: **\$5,000**
- **Highly Commended Anglican Diocese Prize**: **\$5,000**
- **People's Choice Prize** – provided by Benedictine Community: **\$2,000**
- **New Norcia Artist Residency Prize**: 1-month residency and **\$10,000**

## JUDGES

Finalist works are selected by an eminent panel of judges and shown in an exhibition in May 2024 at Holmes à Court Gallery in Gooyaman West Perth. The artwork awarded the Mandorla Art Prize is acquired into the Mandorla Collection, held at the New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery. The selection panel and judges for the 2024 Mandorla Art Award are:

[Hannah Mathews](#) - Director of Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, WA

[Richard Lewer](#) - Artist, Vic

[Dr Raewynne Whiteley](#) - Theologian, WA

## ENTRIES

Entries are open from now until **Friday 13 March 2024**. Artists can enter via the [online entry form](#). The artwork can be in any medium and must have been produced in the last year and not previously exhibited.

## CONTACT

Web: [www.mandorlaart.com](http://www.mandorlaart.com)

Email: [info@mandorlaart.com](mailto:info@mandorlaart.com)

Curator: [curator@mandorlaart.com](mailto:curator@mandorlaart.com)



Principal Sponsor: St John of God Health Care

Sponsors: Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Anglican Diocese of Perth, New Norcia Benedictine Community, Newman Nominees



Above: Claire Beasein, 2022 Winner, *Chalice*, silk worm cocoons on cotton rag paper.

Below: Mikaela Castledine, 2018 Winner, *God is in the House*, Crochet cotton, glass and ceramic found objects



THE  
MANDORLA  
ART AWARD

Mandorla Centre for Inner Peace Inc  
[www.mandorlaart.com](http://www.mandorlaart.com)



# The Linda Klarfeld Donation



Linda Klarfeld

**N***ew Norcia is delighted to have received an outstanding donation of five religious statuettes from renowned Australian sculptress, Linda Klarfeld.*

The donation was made under the Cultural Gifts Program administered by the Department of the Arts and joins other valuable and unique collections such as the John Dowson collection of rare books on Australiana, Beric Henderson's 2018 artwork Terra Nova and Stephen Miller's extraordinary collection of over 1,000 art catalogues (to give just a few examples of recent donations).

Born in Prague in the Czech Republic, Linda's family moved to Australia in 1980. Her father was a drummer with various rock bands including Framus Five and The Cardinals, and Linda credits his influence on her developing creativity.

Linda has created several sculptures of well-known Australians, including Dr Victor Chang, cricketers Keith Miller and Bill Woodfull, AFL footballer Neil Roberts and former Mayor of Mosman, Cr Dom Lopez OAM. In her private work she began focusing on the world of business and created the Board of Directors series, a collection of semi-abstract sculptures depicting the archetypes of the business

world. This was followed by an exhibition recognising eleven leading Australian business identities in a collection of realistic portrait busts called "Icons of Business. Since then, Linda has created numerous sculptures on a religious theme and over forty public monuments around Australia. She is the first woman in Australia to be commissioned to create portrait busts for the Prime Ministers Avenue whilst her well-known religious pieces include St Marcellin Champagnat (2012) and St Mary Mackillop (2011). (Adapted from Linda Klarfeld - Alchetron, The Free Social Encyclopedia).

Linda's donation to New Norcia comprises five statuettes titled Mary and Girls, Angel of Love, Angel, Dancing Madonna and Our Lady Help of Christians. At the moment, the statuettes are gracing the Archives but it is hoped that we will be able to mount an exhibition of her work in the near future.



L-R: Mary and Girls, Angel of Love, Angel, Dancing Madonna, Our Lady Help of Christians.



"Angel"

## Abbot's Table: Summer

We are pleased to announce the date for the first Abbot's Table dinner of 2024, to be held at the grand old New Norcia Hostel:

*La Table de l'Abbé'*

*The Abbot's Table*

*SUMMER: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

This series celebrates 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.

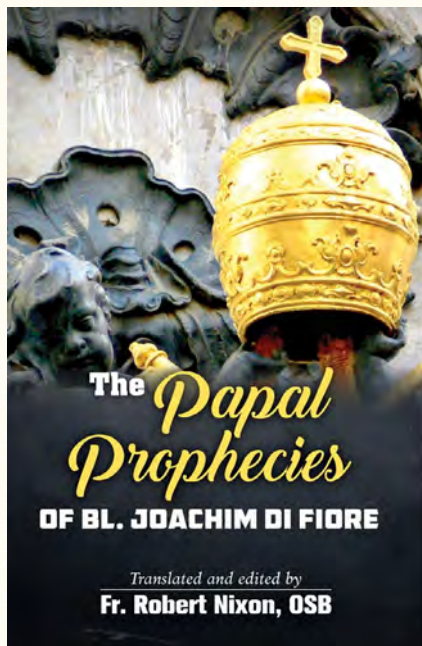
- Pre-dinner drinks begin at 6.00 p.m.
- All-inclusive dinner: \$180 per person

Please book online at [shop.newnorcia.com.au](http://shop.newnorcia.com.au)



# The Papal Prophecies of Blessed Joachim of Fiori

Translated for the first time by New Norcia's Fr. Robert Nixon



Fr. Robert Nixon's translation of the papal prophecies of Blessed Joachim of Fiori has recently been published by Sensus Fidelium Press, and is now available through New Norcia's gift shop. Blessed Joachim was a fascinating and somewhat controversial figure in the late mediaeval church. Born in 1135, he was a contemporary of St. Francis and St. Dominic and brought together elements of monastic and mendicant spirituality in his own life. After departing on a solitary pilgrimage to the Holy Land while still a teenager and living therefore for several years as a desert hermit, he returned to Italy to found a Benedictine monastery which later evolved into a congregation. His reputation for wisdom, sanctity and miracles, and particularly his prophetic insights, caused him to be deeply venerated while he lived, and popes and emperors frequently sought his advice and counsel.

Joachim's papal prophecies comprise thirty mysterious oracles, each accompanied by an image, which foretell the career and actions of future popes. These were extremely popular in the late Middle Ages and early-Modern period, with countless manuscript copies surviving, and about a dozen printed editions appearing in the 16th and 17th centuries. Today, the popularly known papal prophecies are those attributed to St. Malachy which, however, are clearly much later forgeries. But the earlier and much more cryptic collection attributed to Bl. Joachim has received very little attention in recent centuries outside of scholarly circles.

This new book makes these enigmatic and beautiful works available for the curious modern reader for the first time, together with reproductions of the fascinating artwork from the rare 1589 Venetian edition.

*You can purchase Fr. Robert Nixon's translation through New Norcia's gift shop.*

## The Easter Triduum is the greatest solemnity of the Church

For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful end to the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. The earliest recorded observance of Easter comes from the 2nd century, though it is likely that even the earliest Christians commemorated the Resurrection, which is an integral tenet of the faith.

The Easter Triduum is the greatest solemnity of the Church's liturgical year and staying at New Norcia over these three days is a wonderful and unforgettable way of being immersed in the great beauty, mystery and splendour of this occasion.

New Norcia is delighted to be able to offer packages including accommodation, meals and participation in the liturgy and other events to our guests.

The Monastic liturgy of the hours will also be prayed and are open to our guests.

Times for these will be included in the information booklet.

The events over these days include:

<b>Holy Thursday – 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Mass of the Lord's Supper (7.30pm)
<b>Good Friday – 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord (3.00pm) Taize Chant and Prayer (7.30pm)
<b>Holy Saturday – 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Holy Saturday Musical Recital (10.30am)
<b>Easter Sunday – 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Vigil Mass of Easter (4.30am) Easter Sunday Morning Mass (9.30am)

The accommodation options include:

<b>Option 1</b>	Accommodation and meals from Holy Thursday until Easter Sunday afternoon	\$400 pp
<b>Option 2</b>	Accommodation and meals – one night only	\$160 pp
<b>Option 3</b>	Bed and Breakfast only	\$110 pp/night
<b>Option 4</b>	Day Visit only with lunch	\$35 pp

For full details and to book your tickets please go to:  
[shop.newnorcia.com.au](http://shop.newnorcia.com.au)

# Calendars now available

Hot off the press - the 2024 New Norcia calendar features the works on paper of Fr. Lesmes Lopez OSB from an exhibition in St Ildephonsus' large and small dining rooms.



This calendar shows the liturgical calendar as celebrated by the Benedictine Community of New Norcia. Purchase the calendar online at: [shop.newnorcia.com.au/products/calendar-2024](http://shop.newnorcia.com.au/products/calendar-2024)

# Coming Events

From December 2023

24 December 2023

Church Service - Christmas Night Mass

25 December 2023

Church Service - Christmas Morning Mass

30 December 2023

Church Service - Ecumenical Carols

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

December 2023

Sunday 3 December:  
First Sunday Of Advent

Tuesday 5 December  
St Saba (Optional Memorial)

Thursday 7 December  
St Ambrose (Memorial)

Friday 8 December  
Immaculate Conception Of  
The BVM (Solemnity)

Sunday 11 December  
Second Sunday Of Advent

Wednesday 13 December  
St Lucy (Memorial)

Thursday 14 December  
St John of the Cross  
(Memorial)

Sunday 17 December  
Third Sunday Of Advent

- Sunday 24 December  
Fourth Sunday Of Advent
- Monday 25 December  
Nativity Of The Lord  
(Solemnity)
- Tuesday 26 December  
St Stephen
- Wednesday 27 December  
St John (Feast)
- Thursday 28 December  
The Holy Innocents (Feast)
- Friday 29 December  
5th Day of Octave
- Saturday 30 December  
6th Day of Octave
- Sunday 31 December  
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph (Feast)



**NEW NORCIA**  
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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