

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

Vol 24 No 5 - July 2024



Valentín, Alicia, Carlos, Francisco and Angel.

Spanish TV crew visit the Archives!

On Wednesday 3rd July, the Archives were delighted to welcome Valentín Carrera and his colleagues from the Spanish audiovisual production company, Bierzo Paradiso.

Valentín is the producer for a documentary series on the life, work and legacy of Bishop Salvado which is being produced for Galician television (TVG). The team comprised producers Valentín and Francisco, cameraman Carlos, actors Alicia and Angel and Salvado music expert and musical director Andrea González Perez. The main points of interest for them were the Salvado diaries and the Salvado era correspondence, especially a letter to Salvado from Queen Isabella II. For Andrea, her interest naturally lay in the music of Bishop Salvado and it was indeed fortuitous that, in addition to Fr Robert, "our" Salvado music expert, Abbot Placid scholar, Allegra Giagu, was on site at the same time. Another highlight for Valentín and Co was a visit to the Museum where much filming took place and then to Museum Collections in the search for a rumoured Stradivarius (not found).



Angel, Francisco, Valentín and Alicia inspecting a letter written by Queen Isabella II.



Carlos filming Andrea examining a copy of Salvado's Maquielo.



Making Connections with the Past

We recently had a visit from a gentleman from Western Sydney who had ridden a Harley Davidson motorbike from Perth to make the visit. His name is Nathan Spadaro, and he came to remake connection with his uncle, Dom Bartholomew (Bart) Spadaro, who was a monk at New Norcia during the 1980's. If you have stayed in the upper guesthouse rooms, you may remember that the artwork in those rooms is all by Dom Bart.

Nathan tells me that as he was on his way to the Sydney airport with his father Joseph, his dad told him about a model ship that he had made, and had given to New Norcia many years before.

The story was that Nathan's older brother had almost died at birth, and Joseph made the model as a devotion to God during that tough time.

Nathan and his brother were not aware of the model.

After Nathan had visited his uncle in the cemetery, Father David mentioned to Museum and Art Gallery staff that he would love to see the model. Sadly, it was in a wooden case that had been turned to the wall to protect the glass and was "hiding in plain sight", so he did not get to see it.

Subsequently it was found, photographed and the photos were sent to Nathan.

The family were most gratified to see the photos and the model detail once again.

The model is about 1.5m long and the detail is exquisite.

It must have taken something in the order of a year to make and assemble.



Mary Bridget Neville

(10th March 1934 – 18th May 2024), RIP

Mary Neville, Fr David Barry's sister, passed away on 18th May, with her son Michael and his wife Julie by her side. Mary celebrated her 90th birthday on 10th March. She had been in aged care in the Gosford suburb of Erina, only a few minutes' drive from her son's home, for the past three years, recovering fairly well from a stroke in February, but succumbing to a second stroke she had in early May.



Fr David flew to Sydney on 28th May to take part in her funeral the following day. The service was held in the Palm Chapel at Macquarie Park/Northern Suburbs Cemetery, with our long-time friend Fr David Orr, OSB, of St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia, officiating. Many of Mary's older friends predeceased her, but she was much appreciated for her generous hospitality by her son Michael's primary schoolmates (St Michael's Primary School, Lane Cove) and secondary schoolmates (St Ignatius' College, Riverview), who were well represented at her funeral. Her youngest brother (deceased) Peter's daughter Carla Landon from Canberra, and two of her only three Australian cousins on her mother's side, who were very close to Mary, were also present. Mary had often driven her brother Fr David to the Benedictine nuns' monastery in Pennant Hills when he was visiting Sydney. She and their mother were both present on the very wet day when the nuns' new monastery at Jamberoo was opened in 1988. Mary continued to enjoy driving Fr David on his visits to Jamberoo in succeeding years, so it was not altogether surprising when the Abbess, Mother Hilda and Sub-Prioress, Sr Caritas from Jamberoo attended the funeral of one they knew as a very good friend.

Where the service booklet was supposed to have the words of Ps 23(22) according to the Grimond setting, the words given were those of the Grail Psalter, so Fr David sang the Gelineau setting of Ps 22(23) accompanied by Sr Elizabeth Murray, SGS on the organ. At the end of the chapel service, Fr David gave a very brief eulogy before her son Michael followed by his wife Julie and their daughter Indy delivered much fuller eulogies.

At the end of the graveside prayers the Benedictines present combined to sing the Salve Regina, a Marian motet that Mary practised with her brother several times over the phone when she was for ten or more years a member of the Sydney Gregorian Schola, until driving at night for rehearsals in distant suburbs proved too challenging.

Mary made numerous visits to New Norcia over the past forty years, often staying for some days. She came for Fr David's golden jubilee of profession (2007) and ordination (2013), Easter (2008), our Dante Day in 2016 and again in 2017 for Fr David's diamond jubilee of profession. She would spend time in the Museum/Art Gallery and its shop, and loved chatting to the staff there and in the Guesthouse when their duties allowed.

Glimpses of Sydney, and New Norcia Connections

On the day following Mary's funeral, Fr David put his Transport NSW Gold Opal Card to good use in memory of Mary, getting to experience Sydney's now-extensive light rail, going up to Dulwich Hill, then back into the city, walking down George Street from Chinatown, going through the QVB (Queen Victoria Building) near Town Hall where they usually had a coffee or a light meal, then on to Circular Quay, where he took the ferry to Balmain and back (Mary lived in Balmain for twenty years before moving to Clancy Terrace Retirement Village at Greenwich in 2013), then the fast ferry to Manly to walk down The Corso (remembered from the mid-1940s!) where they would purchase fish and chips to have on the Esplanade overlooking Manly's ocean beach, then back to Manly wharf to take the ordinary ferry back to the Quay, then light rail back to Glebe, where he was staying with the Good Samaritan Sisters.

About midday on Friday, Fr David Orr drove Fr David to Arcadia, visiting the Aged Care Home in Dural where the second of their monks, Br Terence, was admitted only a few days before. The first, their senior Fr Alberic, was in isolation with the flu.

At Arcadia, Fr David renewed acquaintances with Frs Michael Kelly and Bernard McGrath, both of whom, as well as David Orr, have led the annual retreat in our community; he was then invited to spend the time before Vespers browsing in their library. Not for the first time he left deeply impressed by the very solid monastic library they have built up in a relatively short time – solid in scripture, theology, philosophy, patristics, liturgy, monastic history and spirituality, literature, to mention the main sections.

On Saturday morning, Michael Neville picked up Fr David and drove him, in light showers, around suburbs associated with the family's Sydney-based life. Michael first visited New Norcia as a three-year old in 1967 with his mother, on her way back to London after her first visit to her homeland since leaving Sydney for England in 1953, where she married Gerald Neville in 1957. The Neville family moved to Australia, and to Sydney, the following year, Gerald as a representative of Rank Xerox in the early days of photocopyers.

The morning drive finished at the Tramsheds shopping mall in Glebe, where they had arranged to have lunch with another

New Norcia connection in attendance at the funeral, Sr Elizabeth Murray, SGS, who was New Norcia's monastic and parish liturgy coordinator and organist from 1996 through December 2000. Sr Elizabeth had informed us that Sr Thérèse-Marie Fleming, SGS, principal of New Norcia Catholic College from 1986 till its closure at the end of 1991, is now, after many years working in pastoral outreach and catechetics with remote station families and communities in North Queensland, residing in the Ryde Retirement Village. While Michael set out for his home in Gosford, Sr Elizabeth drove Fr David, in steady and increasingly heavy rain (Sydney had not quite 100 mm that day), to visit Sr Thérèse-Marie at Ryde. Over afternoon tea there was much reminiscing by the three of them about New Norcia and the people living there or in the parish and district. In pouring rain, Sr Elizabeth drove Fr David back to Glebe and stayed for the Vigil Mass Fr David celebrated with the Glebe Sisters. He flew back to Perth the next day, was met by Dom Daniel, and was home in time for dinner.

David Barry
10th June 2024

Women's Reflection and Prayer Day

Carmel Ross led 19 women in a day of reflection and prayer on Saturday 8th June so that they could reflect on their faith and how they live it in their everyday lives.

The women came from as far away as Perth, Dowerin, Bindoon and Moora to join parishioners from New Norcia, and the atmosphere was friendly, inclusive and relaxed.

The topic that Carmel chose was Be a Blessing. She prepared sheets with art, illustrations and cartoons to highlight passages from the Old and New Testament, and excerpts from other writings. On examination, we quietly came to appreciate how God blesses us, we praise and thank God, and we bless each other.

In a spirit of generous sharing, the participating women brought morning tea and lunch to share, and the table was laden with delicious food.

The Institute Seminar Room was our venue, and we appreciated that Fr Robert did much of the setting up for us.

We are grateful to Carmel for the material she prepared, and also for her skill in encouraging our reflection and participation. It was a day of spiritual enrichment.

My experience in the Golden Chefs Competition

Kyle Victoriano



My experience on the competition day was a daunting and nerve-wracking experience. I was up against eleven other chefs, two of them were full time students already finished with their second semester work.

The other nine chefs were fully qualified apprentices, working in busy cafes, restaurants, and having more experience than me. One of them even works in Rockpool at the Crown. Another one has had experience in competitions for more than three years. However, I did not let that dampen my spirits. I just had one objective on my mind, to cook my heart out. I have practised for over a month; I know my dishes inside and out and I was confident in my dish and in myself.

Once the competition started it was nothing but the sounds of pan sizzling, blenders blending and ovens. No talking, no laughing, no smiles, just stone-cold faces. Except for me, I was trying to have fun when cooking, because stressing out does not help at all. Two hours to cook mains and dessert, while cleaning in between, because as a chef cleanliness is just as important as the cooking itself.

Two hours turned to one, one turned into 30 minutes, and sooner or later I completed all my components without dramas. When it came to plating it was relatively easy, even with three judges watching. Thankfully, nothing went majorly wrong with the dishes.

The medals ceremony was emotionally overwhelming for me. There was a surplus of silver and bronze medals and only three gold medals. The MC called out my name and said that I had won a gold medal, while my family cheered. I was happy to leave with gold, but when the MC announced the regional winner, and that I was representing WA in Melbourne I couldn't move. I literally had to push myself up to accept that award. It was the proudest day of my life, beating ten other chefs, all more qualified than me is amazing. I am proud and up to the challenge to not only to represent New Norcia, but the whole state of WA. Coming from a small country town, to going to the grand finals in Melbourne is honestly amazing and I can't wait for the challenge.

Happenings from Grounds and Maintenance



Grounds and Maintenance staff completing lift course held onsite.



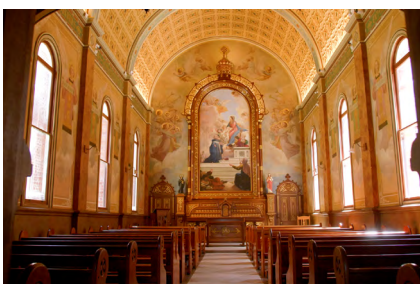
Painting of the new ceiling completed by Colourwest Painting.

June has been a busy month for the Grounds and Maintenance Department. The team has installed updated signage and increased mowing and gardening efforts as the site has begun to turn green. They have also been repairing damaged water lines. In addition, the Grounds and Maintenance staff have completed a two-day forklift course held onsite and conducted by CR Tafe Northam. Each day continues to bring a variety of work requests.

Specialist contractors have been on site attending to a variety of tasks. They have been conducting surveys to update records to meet legislative and safety requirements around the entire site. Western Environmental has been inspecting buildings and upgrading the asbestos register. Electrical Testing Services has been undertaking thermal imaging of all electrical distribution boards. WA Ceilings installed a new ceiling at St Joseph's Hall, and the painting of the new ceiling was completed by Colourwest Painting.

Groups Bookings at New Norcia - Suggested Day Programme 2024

- 10:00am** **Arrive at New Norcia**
- 10.30 pm** **Private Tour**
1 hour with a tour guide dedicated to your group.
An opportunity to see 'behind closed doors' in Australia's only monastic town. Your guide will introduce you to New Norcia's eclectic Monastic, Aboriginal and European heritage as you see some of the town's richly decorated buildings, 27 of which are listed on the National Trust and not otherwise accessible to the public. Other highlights include the Flour Mill, Abbey Church and beautifully frescoed college chapels.
- 12.00 pm** **Monastery Oratory (optional)**
Join the monks for midday prayers inside the Monastery Oratory. All faiths are welcome.
- 12.30 pm** **Lunch (optional, not included in price)**
Experience old world grandeur by having lunch in the dining room of the beautiful New Norcia Hostel. Please inform us of your meal preference at least 7 days prior to your visit and if there are any dietary requirements.
- 1.30pm** **Museum & Art Gallery**
New Norcia is home to one of the finest collections of moveable heritage in Australia. Gifts from the Queen of Spain and a fascinating array of artefacts tell the story of New Norcia's 170-year old history. The galleries feature religious paintings by Spanish and Italian Masters and Australian Contemporary Artists.
- 3.30pm** **The Gift Shop**
Free time to browse our shop and pick up last-minute gifts and goodies. The shop offers a range of local produce including New Norcia Abbey Wines, breads, Nut Cake, Pan Chocolatti, New Norcia Olive Oil, art, books and music.
- 4.15 pm** **Leave New Norcia**
Taking with you some special lasting memories. Have a safe journey home and thank you for visiting our beautiful town.



Bookings can be made through the New Norcia Museum.
Please call 08 9654 8056.

A Visit from Sacred Heart

On Sunday 9th June, long-time friend and Oblate of New Norcia, Chris Kan visited with a group of eighteen students from two Sacred Heart Colleges – Sorrento (WA) and Oakleigh (Vic).

Arriving (just!) in time for 9.00 a.m. Mass, the group then joined the local community and guests for morning tea in the monastery parlour, followed by a tour with Abbot John.

The tour took the form of an introduction to Benedictine Spirituality by visiting the main rooms of the monastic enclosure – Chapter Room, Oratory, Refectory and Library – explaining the important monastic practices that are undertaken in them.

Chris reported back a few days later to say: "the students were quite entranced with New Norcia."



New Norcia Price Increases

Like all businesses and individuals, New Norcia has not been immune from the recent cost of living price increases impacting all Australians following the slow economic recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the pandemic and the end of the Government's Job-Keeper support, New Norcia held its fees and charges stable for a number of years, absorbing a large range of supplier price increases.

Unfortunately, The Community is no longer able to fully absorb the continuing cost of operating the New Norcia site without passing on some of these cost increases by way of guest price rises.

Whilst some guests have complained about the price increases, other guests

and visitors have understood that the New Norcia prices have been unchanged for many years and accept that price increases in the current inflationary environment are necessary.

As New Norcia receives no regular or recurring funding from any other parties, the recent CPI wage increase along with increases in power, fuel, catering and other operational expenses has resulted in the recent modest price increases that have been experienced by recent guests staying at New Norcia.

Anglican Clergy Annual Retreat at the Monastery Guesthouse



After an opening talk on the first evening, titled Preliminary Remarks on Prayer (what prayer is or aims to be, may aim to be and do, and does not aim to be or do), the first full day's one talk was on the God, to whom we pray. On the second day, attention was mainly on the Self, the person who prays, and what can hinder or help in the process. Day three was devoted to the Other, our neighbour, to whom we minister in many different ways and at different levels.

The concluding talk on the Friday was devoted to the virtue of perseverance in prayer and the practices that support it, always with 'eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection' (Heb 12:2a).

WA Tourism Conference

Director of Visitors Services Carmel Murray and Groups Manager Joyce McKee attended the annual WA Regional Tourism Conference Dinner in Mandurah on June 10th.

They attended many sessions over the two day conference including the Visitor Centre WA Regional Meeting, while networking with people in their specialised field to be able to bring their expertise back to the staff at New Norcia.

This conference is an important part of how we operate our tours and interact with our visitors so they can get the best experience while visiting New Norcia.



Postcards from the Past

Recently, in the process of renovating the Old Trading Post, Oleksandr from the Grounds and Maintenance department removed the old post box, only to discover 4 postcards that had lodged behind the box.

The age of the postcards is evidenced by them having 45c stamps for their postage.

Oleksandr was very keen that the postcards be sent, so Roy Gardner contacted Australia Post for guidance, wrote a covering letter and three of the four were posted in envelopes.

Sadly, one of the postcards was badly weathered and could not be read sufficiently well to send it on.





Coming Events

From July 2024

26th July – 28th July 2024

An Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin – Weekend Retreat

3rd August 2024

Fr Robert Nixon – OSB Music from the Movies – Concert

9th August – 11th August 2024

An Inner Pilgrimage with Hildegard – Weekend Retreat

17th August 2024

Abbot’s Table: Winter 2024

23rd August – 25th August 2024

Monk Mode—Applying Monastic Principles to Everyday Life

Visit our website for a complete list of Coming Events – newnorciamonastery.com.au/whats-on/events-calendar/current-events

Weekend Retreat: Monk Mode—Applying Monastic Principles to Everyday Life

23rd August - 25th August 2024

The principles of monastic life include commitment, perseverance, patience, and self-discipline. These are values which run counter to our mainstream culture, where self-indulgence, distraction, and rush are very much the norm. Yet these lead to a dissipation of strength and focus, and ultimately a loss of happiness, independence and freedom. This weekend retreat will explore how the principles of monastic living can be applied to everyday life, to harness your inner strength, and achieve resilience, success and contentment.

The cost includes two nights' accommodation at the Monastery Guesthouse, meals and entry into the Museum and Art Gallery.

Book online at: shop.newnorciamonastery.com or call the New Norcia Guesthouse on (08) 9654 8002

Liturgical Calendar

From July 2024

- Sunday 21 July
Sixteenth In Ordinary Time
- Monday 22 July
St Mary Magdalen (Memorial)
- Thursday 25 July
St James (Feast)
- Friday 26 July
Sts Joachim & Anne (Memorial)
- Sunday 28 July
Seventeenth In Ordinary Time
- Monday 29 July
Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus (Memorial)
- Wednesday 31 July
St Ignatius of Loyola (Memorial)
- Thursday 1 August
St Alphonsus Ligouri (Memorial)
- Saturday 3 August
St Dominic (Memorial)
- Sunday 4 August
Eighteenth In Ordinary Time
- Tuesday 6 August
Transfiguration of the Lord (Feast)



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@newnorciamonastery.com.au.

© 2024 | Benedictine Community of New Norcia

New Norcia Road, New Norcia WA 6509, Australia
T: (08) 9654 8018
www.newnorciamonastery.com.au