

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

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The hidden God whom we seek

On Sunday 22nd September, we were pleased to welcome our dear friend and oblate Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, who served as retreat master for the annual monastic community retreat.

Aware of Peter's theological/philosophical grounding, and his deep spirituality (nourished in the past thirteen years by the monastic tradition) Abbot John invited him to give the retreat, the first time someone other than a priest or religious has done so in the history of the New Norcia community. Our small community was enriched with the presence of Sr Raphael Stone OSB, Sr Lillian Bong SJA, and our resident volunteers Jim and Chris. Our friends Chris, Phil and Jason also sat in on a few sessions during the week of silent reflection.

Drawing on the Scriptures, the Rule of St Benedict, the Divine Office, his favourite authors such as Flannery O'Connor, and his own personal and professional experience, Peter offered two conferences each day on the theme 'The hidden God whom we seek'. It was a very contemplative retreat full of wisdom and insight. In this present time in which the church is focusing on Synodality – a time of attentive listening to all members of the Body of Christ – the retreat was indeed a profound example of 'synodality in action'.

We kept the tradition of ending the retreat silence with a 'picnic day' at the conclusion of this special time in the monastic year, enjoying a lovely lunch together at the Victoria Hotel in Toodyay.



Words of Encouragement from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Christianity has a rich tradition of pilgrims spending time in the desert in search of a deeper spirituality. In many ways, entering the solitude of the New Norcia environment provides such an experience. There is peace here, tranquillity, a sense of engaging with a different, deeper, reality. The possibility of refreshment resides here, of recalibrating a life that is far too often harassed by busyness, urgency, and turmoil. Residing at New Norcia for a few days clears the mind, steadies the heart, enables the body to rest. A stay at New Norcia is highly recommended therapy for any weary pilgrim!

Richard B.

Wonderful, tranquil place to stay. The food was delicious and plentiful, the beds were comfy, rooms air conditioned and the showers hot! Together with the bird song and peace, these make New Norcia the perfect get away for a weary soul.

Jody B.

Our annual retreats and 'getting away from the noise of the city' is, for me, one of the highlights of the year. I did enjoy the New Norcia bread, red wine, and delicious nourishing food served generously to us during the retreat. There is a reverence about New Norcia which I love. The serenity, the surrounds, the monks chanting the Psalms, Fr Robert's music in the church (demonstrating the sound and quality of the organ brought out from Europe many years ago) enhanced by the acoustics of the building was extremely moving...

And it was lovely to have the companionship and presence of others, even though we were part of a Silent Retreat.

Evelyn I.

Art and Prayer - A Retreat for Artists

22nd-24th November 2024


THE
MANDORLA
ART AWARD



The Benedictine Community of New Norcia and The Mandorla Art Award Committee invite you to a gentle weekend of quiet reflection and artistic exploration in the tranquil rural setting of Australia's only monastic town.

Along with participating in the daily rhythm of monastic life, sessions will include talks on art and prayer, the interpretation of religious art, shared discussion...and time for silence and solitude to hear the still voice of God speaking to your creative spirit.

Participants are asked to contribute \$360, which includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, as well as admission to the Museum and Art Gallery.

Bookings via New Norcia's webshop: newnorcia.com.au

For those who can't afford it, participation by donation can be arranged by contacting: john.herbert@newnorcia.com.au.

Desire

Leschenaultia Macrantha

*And yet, if our Earth needed to
she could weave us together like roses
and make of us a garland –
Rainer Maria Rilke*

*speak to me of wreaths, those garland
set like gardens in colours of rose-pink
and red, when light seeps in
curls your head onto my breast*

*speak to me of words
set in garland rounds
when sun throws shade
to early afternoon*

*speak to me of colour
woven **leschenaultia** flowers
garlands, rare and utterly deceiving
appearing wanton on sandy plains
clasped in Spring's gathering arms*

Rose van Son



New Kitchenette at the Hostel

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our guest services so, late August, just in time for the guests who attended the last Abbot's Table, our very innovative team imagined the conversion of a bottom floor storeroom into a kitchenette and, equal to the task, our very talented Grounds and Maintenance team created the kitchenette.

The facility is a great success and allows guests to better serve their own breakfast, and access tea and coffee facilities as they desire.



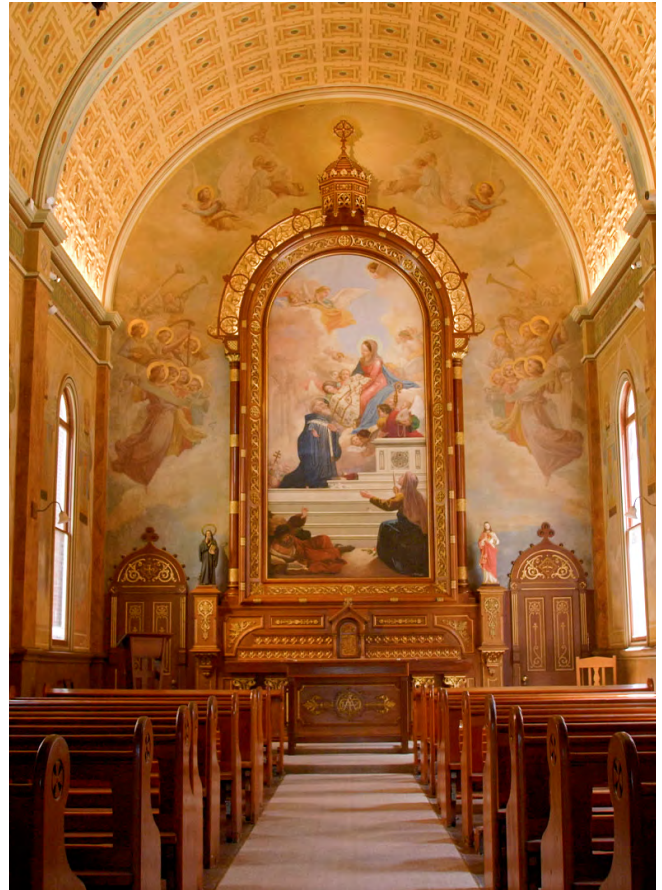
Notice of Change to Monastic Horarium

Compline Monday – Friday will be celebrated at 8.00pm
Anticipated Sunday Vigils on Saturday night will be celebrated at 8.00pm
Effective from Monday 2nd December 2024

Monday – Saturday Schedule	
4.45	Rise
5.00	Vigils Breakfast /Private Prayer
6.30	Lauds
7.30	Conventual Mass (in oratory) Breakfast/Free Time
9.00	Work
12.00	Angelus Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Midday Prayer Silent Lunch (with reading) Recreation
1.30	Siesta
2.30	Afternoon Prayer (followed by rosary on Mondays)
2.45	Work
4.15	Afternoon Tea /Free Time
5.45	Lectio Divina/Quiet Time
6.25	Statio
6.30	Vesper Silent Tea (with reading and music) News/Free Time
8.00	Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Compline Great Silence (until 8.00 a.m.)

Sunday Schedule	
5.45	Rise
6.00	Lauds Breakfast /Private Prayer
8.45	Confessions
9.00	Conventual Mass (in church)
12.00	Angelus Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Midday Prayer Silent Lunch (with reading) Recreation
1.30	Siesta
4.15	Afternoon Tea
5.30	Vespers (in church)
6.30	Silent Tea (with music)
7.30	Compline TV – Otherwise Great Silence (until 8.00 a.m.)

Variations on Saturdays
 8.30 a.m. Choir Practice
 8.00 p.m. Vigils of Sunday



Groups Bookings at New Norcia

Suggested Day Programme 2024

10:00am	Arrive at New Norcia
10.30 pm	<p>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.</p>
12.00 pm	<p>Monastery Oratory (optional) Join the monks for midday prayers inside the Monastery Oratory. All faiths are welcome.</p>
12.30 pm	<p>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.</p>
1.30pm	<p>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.</p>
3.30pm	<p>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.</p>
4.15 pm	<p>Leave New Norcia Taking with you some special lasting memories. Have a safe journey home and thank you for visiting our beautiful town.</p>

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



A Classy Country Wedding

On Friday 4th October one-hundred-and-ten family and friends gathered to witness and celebrate the marriage of Isabella Clune and Wyatt Verhoogt.

The marriage ceremony, presided over by Abbot John, took place in the popular wedding venue of St Ildephonus' chapel which was adorned with beautifully designed flower arrangements...how handy it is to have a family member as a florist. While the stunning bride and handsome groom took 'centre-stage', the six young flower girls and page boys made every effort to steal the show.

After the ceremony, drinks and canapes were enjoyed in the open-air arcades at the rear of the college, followed by a festive banquet in a spectacular marquee set up on the lawn area in the Education Centre, which was serviced by a brigade of chefs and waiters, and bar service provided by one of the local sports clubs.

Guests stayed overnight in every accommodation venue New Norcia has to offer, and enjoyed a cooked breakfast in St Ild's dining room the next morning...it's amazing what bacon and eggs can do for the after effects of such a great occasion!



New Norcia Retreat and Study Programme for 2025 now available

We are very pleased to announce that the programme for New Norcia's retreats and courses are now available for 2025.

On offer is a series of varied events focusing on Benedictine spirituality, meditation, and the cultivation of inner peace and freedom. As well as our customary weekend retreats, a number of one-day options is also available.

Our weekend and one-day retreats are an opportunity to step back from the usual concerns of life into a setting of tranquility and reflection, and to absorb the ancient wisdom of our monastic tradition. Participants are encouraged to book well in advance, as events are often fully booked.

Please visit the New Norcia online giftshop, at: shop.newnorcia.com.au

The Most Popular Piano Pieces of All Time

**Musical Soirée with Father Robert Nixon OSB
14th December, at the New Norcia Hostel.**

The evening will commence at 6.30pm
A sumptuous supper and drinks will be served.

In this musical soirée, New Norcia's Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB, will perform the most popular and best-loved pieces of all time. These are the works which appear most frequently in concert programmes, are listened to and recorded most often, and which surveys of listeners show are ranked the highest in terms of being favourites.

Included in this selection will, of course, be pieces like Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Chopin's Fantasia-Impromptu, Satie's Gymnopédie No. 1, and many others- as well as a few works by contemporary composers which have made it into the top rankings in popularity. Listeners at this recital can be confident that they will hear some of their own favourites.

Tickets are \$100, all inclusive.
Book online at newnorcia.com.au.
Accommodation can be separately arranged by e-mailing groups@newnorcia.com.au





Abbot's Table: Spring

16th November
\$180.00

We are pleased to announce the date for the next dinner of 2024, to be held at the grand old New Norcia Hostel.

This series celebrates a set four-course menu of fresh seasonal produce and showcase 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.

Book online via the [webshop](#).

PLEASE NOTE: For group bookings: please list the name of each group member attending in the notes section of your order. There is a limit of 8 tickets per booking. Thank you!

Coming Events

From October 2024

6th November 2024

Abbot's Table: Spring 2024

29th November – 1st December 2024

Weekend Retreat: Benedictine Secrets For Balance and Serenity

28th February – 2nd March 2025

Weekend Retreat: Benedictine Secrets For Balance and Serenity

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

Liturgical Calendar

From October 2024

Sunday 13 October
Twenty-Eighth In Ordinary Time

Tuesday 15 October
St Teresa of Jesus (Memorial)

Thursday 17 October
St Ignatius of Antioch (Memorial)

Friday 18 October
St Luke (Feast)

Sunday 20 October
Twenty-Ninth In Ordinary Time

Sunday 27 October
Thirtieth In Ordinary Time

Monday 28 October
Sts Simon & Jude (Feast)

Friday 1 November
ALL SAINTS (Solemnity)

Sunday 3 November
Thirty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Monday 4 November
St Charles Borromeo (Memorial)



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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