

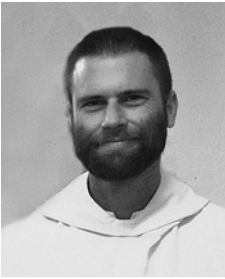
From the Director's Desk

The human being can be accurately characterised as the '*animal quaerens*'- the being whose nature is to search. Within our Benedictine tradition, the search for God forms the ultimate *raison d'être* of our human life, and our fundamental existential teleology. This search for God cannot be separated from the search for truth, for meaning, for beauty, for goodness- since in God, the *Summum Bonum*, all intellectual, aesthetic, moral and spiritual values ultimately converge. Thus the *Rule of St. Benedict* recognises that it is in the context of the temporal that the eternal is to be approached, and that it is through the human experience that the Divine is to be encountered.

The offerings of the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies in 2018 present a diverse and challenging set of opportunities for advancing in this search for God. On the one hand, our retreats will focus deeply on methods of prayer, on the spiritual disciplines, on the cultivation of silence, and on the mystical tradition of Christianity. On the other hand, our various study weekends will encompass a range of fascinating topics, including history, literature, theology and art, all of which articulate with our Benedictine heritage.

The monastic Community of New Norcia cordially invites you to peruse the retreat and study opportunities contained in this brochure, and sincerely hopes that you will discover something of interest to you.

With all blessings.
Dom Robert Nixon, osb
(Director)



The Lamb of God (detail of) by Fr Lesmes Lopez OSB, New Norcia Abbey Church



Annual Institute Day

The Encounter of Christianity and Contemporary Culture

25 August 2017

Keynote Speaker:

Fr. Bernhard Eckerstorfer, osb
(Kremsmunster Abbey, Austria)

Cost: \$70
Including lunch and morning tea

NEW NORCIA Institute for Benedictine Studies

The New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies seeks to broaden and deepen awareness of the monastic tradition within Christianity. Offering an environment conducive to prayer, study and reflection with excellence in teaching and research, the Institute aims to encourage participants at all stages of life to reflect on their journey of faith with the pastoral support of rich traditions in prayer, discernment and discipleship, whether as lay people, professed religious, academics, or in ordained ministry.

Course and Retreat costs

Participants are asked to contribute \$250.00 which covers the course expenses and two nights (Friday and Saturday) full board at the Monastery Guesthouse.

For all enquiries and bookings

Bookings are to be made via
New Norcia's Webshop at:
www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au

For all other queries please contact:
Dom Robert Nixon, osb
E: institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au



New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies
Great Northern Highway, New Norcia WA 6509

www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au



NEW NORCIA

Institute for Benedictine Studies

Study Weekends and Retreats

PROGRAMME 2018



Benedictine Experience Weekends

Benedictine spirituality is more readily experienced than defined. These weekends in the monastery guesthouse (beginning with Vespers at 6.30 p.m. on Friday, concluding after lunch on Sunday) provide the opportunity to enter fully into the monastic rhythm and balance of prayer, work, lectio divina, hospitality, and community life. There will be opportunities to ponder the riches of the scriptures and monastic literature, both in group discussions and personal silence and solitude, bringing from the ‘storeroom, things both new and old.’ Participants are also invited to join the community for silent meals in the refectory, one of many invitations to listen with the ‘ear of the heart.’

March 9 – 11 | April 27 – 29 | July 13 – 15

Cost: \$250

Includes accommodation, meals and entry into the Museum & Art Gallery

** Image on cover: Psalm (71) 72 (detail of) by *Salvatore Zofrea, 1996*

Retreats

February 23-25

Lenten Retreat

Fr. David Barry osb

Lent is a time traditionally devoted to spiritual purification and refinement in preparation for Easter, including by means of the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This retreat will help participants to embrace Lent prayerfully, and with an openness to the graces it offers.

May 11-13

Lectio Divina: Encountering God Through the Sacred Scriptures

Abbot John Herbert, osb

Lectio Divina is the meditative reading of Scriptures, and is a fundamental practice of Benedictine life. This retreat will focus on the practice of *lectio divina* as a way of encountering God more deeply and through deep listening, and enriching one’s prayer and spiritual life by developing a living relationship with the Word of God.



June 15-17

‘The Imitation of Christ’: A Spiritual Classic Re-visited

Dom Robert Nixon, osb

‘*The Imitation of Christ*’, written in the 15th Century by Thomas à Kempis, is considered to be the most widely read book in the Christian tradition, after the Bible. For many generations, it was a beloved guide to the spiritual life, for both Catholics and Protestants alike. This retreat will focus on the work’s continued relevance and challenges for the contemporary reader.

October 12-14

Encountering Jesus

Fr. Anscar McPhee, osb

The encounter with Jesus is at the heart of Christian life and mysticism. Yet, how to achieve this in practice often remains a mystery. This retreat will guide participants in the encounter with Jesus, to be found in prayer, in the sacraments, and in life’s ordinary and extraordinary experiences.

November 2-4

Praying with the Writings of St. Paul

Dom Paul Forster, osb

The writings of St. Paul form, in volume, the largest portion of the New Testament, and are a foundational expression of the emerging beliefs and practices of the Church in apostolic times. They offer to the modern reader a rich source of material for prayer and reflection. This is a chance to delve prayerfully into the writings of St. Paul, and to discover the spiritual treasures contain therein.

November 30-December 2

Advent Retreat

Dom Robert Nixon, osb

Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It can be a particular time of cultivating spiritual receptiveness, to allow Jesus to enter more deeply into our lives, while we enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ’s Incarnation. This retreat will focus on prayer, Scripture and spiritual renewal in preparation for Christmas and the New Year.

Study Weekends

February 16-18

The Psalms in Verse: English Metrical Psalters from 1500-1900.

Dom Robert Nixon, osb

The Psalms, which form the basis of the monastic office, exist in a greater variety of English translations than any other part of Scripture. As texts which are intrinsically poetical and musical they lend themselves readily to poetic paraphrases. Indeed, rhyming, metrical translations of the Psalms date from Anglo-Saxon times, but poetic paraphrases of the Psalms in English began to flourish profusely as a literary genre from the Reformation until the 19th Century, and attracted the efforts of distinguished poets such as Philip Sidney, John Milton, John Donne, Thomas Carew, Lord Byron, etc. This weekend will present a survey of this significant and interesting literary *corpus*.

April 20-22

The Missionary Experiences of the Benedictines at New Norcia and Kalumburu: A Mutually Enriching Cultural and Spiritual Encounter

Abbot Bernard Rooney, osb & Fr. Anscar McPhee, osb

New Norcia was founded as a mission to the Indigenous people, with the intention of proclaiming the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ, and providing assistance to the local people in a multitude of ways. This missionary endeavour was, by its nature, one of reciprocal cultural and spiritual exchange, presenting challenges and opportunities for profound human enrichment, both for the local people and the monks. This weekend will feature a sharing of some of the remarkable experiences in this missionary work, both at New Norcia and at Kalumburu.

May 18-20

Canon Raphael Martelli: friend of New Norcia and humble hero

Prof. John Kinder

Follow the life journey of one of Bishop Salvado’s close friends in the early days of the New Norcia mission. Raphael – or Raffaele – Martelli

(1811-1880) was an Italian priest who spent the first part of his life in Italy and the second half in Western Australia. He is buried in the cemetery at New Norcia. In this weekend we will follow the steps of his eventful life and along the way explore some of the momentous events of the nineteenth century. From his political activism in Risorgimento Italy, to disillusionment and a spiritual crisis, to a chance encounter with Rosendo Salvado and his decision to sail to the other side of the world, to long years of humble and generous service to the people of Western Australia. We will read excerpts from his writings and especially his many letters to friends. Martelli’s life offers precious insights for today’s world: on friendship, on practising intellectual freedom and Christian obedience, and on how to remain true to yourself and open to others.

June 22-24

Leadership in the Rule of St. Benedict

Abbot John Herbert, osb

The Rule of St. Benedict devotes much attention to the qualities of effective leadership, and presents a model which has proven to be successful for countless communities, both large and small, and has endured for 1,500 years. The model of leadership envisaged by St. Benedict is characterised by wisdom, moderation, prudence and consultation. Benedictine leadership is intrinsically linked with listening, discernment and an ethos of service, and is underpinned by an astute understanding of human dynamics. The principles and practices given in the *Holy Rule* are applicable, not only in a monastic setting, but in conducting any organisation. Participants will be given a unique opportunity to explore leadership in the Rule of St. Benedict with Abbot John Herbert.

July 27-29

The Life and Writings of St. Augustine

Fr. David Barry, osb

St. Augustine (354-430) served as Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, and was one of the most prolific and inspired writers of the patristic era. His own life story, recounted in his *Confessions*, is a dramatic tale of an impassioned search for ultimate Truth and of conversion, eloquently expressed in his oft-quoted line: “Our hearts do not rest until they rest in Thee.” This weekend will present an overview of the life of St. Augustine, and will unearth some of the wisdom and wonder to be discovered in his many writings.

September 7-9

Religious Art and Revelation

Dr. Angela McCarthy

God is revealed to humankind over history and through culture. Christianity and Western Culture are intertwined in the way we understand God. The arts are a rich part of that heritage and we can therefore explore the way in which we have seen God over time through art. The New Norcia collection of religious art is an excellent repository of religious art and so this weekend will offer a way in which to ‘see’ God through artworks old and new.