



Pax, a Latin word meaning peace, is the motto of the Benedictine monks of New Norcia

The Chimes Newsletter



December 2020

Rock of Remembrance

At the conclusion of Mass on Sunday 25th October, we were pleased to bless the newly installed 'Rock of Remembrance' – an interactive memorial in honour of those who experienced any form of neglect or abuse at New Norcia.

Situated next to the Abbey Church, the memorial serves as a permanent acknowledgement and apology, in the hope that it will contribute to a sense of healing and reconciliation.

The text reads:

"God, you are the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold." Psalm 17 (18):2

This 'Rock of Remembrance' is a memorial to people who have experienced neglect and abuse.

Unearthed from this ancient land, it represents the steadfast love of God who created all things and holds them in being. Laid out in the form of a cross, symbolising the cross of Christ, it represents the hope of new life beyond pain and suffering.

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia has installed this memorial in acknowledgement of and sincere apology for the physical, emotional and sexual abuse suffered in this place.

You are invited to spend a moment in silent thought and prayer, and to take a pebble adding it to the memorial as an expression of your support for these people, that God will grant them peace of mind and heart.

The blessing coincided with the Catholic Religious of Australia (CRA) annual 'National Day of Sorrow and Promise', and the annual reunion of the New Norcia Aboriginal Corporation.

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia continues to work tirelessly to do everything it possibly can to ensure a safe environment for all those who engage with the site.



The completed Rock of Remembrance



Blessing at the conclusion of Mass on CRA National Day of Sorrow and Promise

The Abbot's Table Seasonal Dinners 2021

On 10th October, Abbot John donned a kitchen apron to share his former life as a chef, working in some of Melbourne's finest award- winning restaurants of the 1980s, with the inaugural 'Abbot's Table' dinner held at the New Norcia Hostel.

Feedback included the following from Mr Daniel Lynch, Director of Archbishop's Office:

I write to share with you my sincere thanks and congratulations in relation to your successful 'launch' of 'La table de l'abbé on Saturday, 10 October 2020. It was an honour to have been included among the first 50 guests you have welcomed to this new initiative, and for that I am most appreciative. The culinary offerings were complemented by the homely ambience of the New Norcia Hostel and the hospitality extended to the guests by the members of your team and yourself.

Other feedback included:

"Many thanks for the absolutely delicious dinner you provided. It was so 'French' and civilised to sit over each course and have the time to savour every mouthful, while enjoying meeting interesting people. We are hoping it will become a feature of New Norcia!"

"We loved the food; the hostel was presented beautifully; and the music from Mary and Fr Robert added another special moment."

"As soon as they placed the entrée plate on the table and we smelt the sauce, we knew how good it was going to be! The food and wine were plentiful. The wait staff went above and beyond."

Following its success, we are pleased to announce the following dates for 2021 seasonal dinners.

SUMMER: 20th February | AUTUMN: 22nd May | WINTER: 21st August | SPRING: 20th November

For more information or to secure a ticket, please visit our webshop at www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



Guesthouse Visitors

Keen readers, writers and photographers recently spent a weekend at New Norcia, to be inspired by the place and instructed by professionals.

They were here for West Travel Club's Writing and Photography workshop and retreat weekend, led by the full-time writers and photographers from the travel editorial department of The West Australian. They write and photograph for print on Saturdays and Thursdays, and all its digital publishing, and run events and tours.

Will Yeoman held writing sessions in the lounge and parlour. Mogens Johansen led nine photography sessions – from Photowalks to a portrait session in the Reading Room, photographing the interior of St Gert's Chapel and heading outside for astro-photography.

In the evening, there was a spoken word and music performance by Stephen Scourfield, accompanied by Will Yeoman, in the Abbey Church, with Father Robert playing a new composition.

And, of course, they were looked after by the Monastery Guesthouse staff.

They filled every room of the Guesthouse and Lower Guesthouse, and solo travellers also took over St Ildephonsus' Cottage.



Stephen Scourfield & Will Yeoman

Stephen Scourfield, Travel Editor of The West Australian explains:

“The accommodation really fitted the mood of the weekend – casual, homely, inviting.

“It was the perfect venue.

“New Norcia was such an inspiring setting, and the Guesthouse comfortable ‘home away from home’, that we are planning to do it all again in spring.”

A Note from the New Norcia Guesthouse

As 2020 draws to a close we can reflect back on what a stressful, crazy year it has been. New Norcia has been the perfect place to be during this time. Many guests have visited for the first time as closed borders prevented them from going further afield. Since the Guesthouse reopened in May most weekends have been fully booked and continue to be until mid-December.

We have had a number of groups able to reschedule after we cancelled everything for a couple of months during lockdown.

One large group from the West Australian Travel Club was able to do so. A couple of Men's groups have also managed to fit in a visit before the end of the year.

If you know someone who could use a quiet break, or perhaps you would like to use a Guesthouse gift voucher for

a Christmas gift, please call Bernadette during office hours on 9654 8002 or 0429 919 000.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you to New Norcia in 2021.

Guesthouse Staff





The monastic community
and everyone at New Norcia,
wish you a very happy and
holy Christmas,
and abundant blessings in 2021.

Feliz Navidad / Bon Nadal / Boas Festas
/Bones Fiestes
Buon Natale / Joyeux Noël / Frohe
Weihnachten / Feliz Natal!



Christmas Trading Hours

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

Christmas Day & Boxing Day
CLOSED

Tuesday 29th December
Roadhouse & Museum and Art
Gallery: usual trading hours

**New Year's Eve &
New Year's Day**
Roadhouse & Museum and Art
Gallery: usual trading hours

**Administration will be closed
Christmas Day until Monday
4nd January.**

Ecumenical Carols Service

The 28th Ecumenical Carol Service will be held in the Abbey Church on 2 January 2021 at 5.00 pm.

The service features community carols for all to sing, plus carols sung by the Georgian Singers, led by John Beaverstock. The New Norcia service is the second of two carol services sung by the Georgians each year. The first is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which takes place on the Monday before Christmas at St Patrick's, Mount Lawley. The Georgian Singers have sung at every Ecumenical Carol Service since it was first held in 1994. Over the years the choir has sung well over a hundred different Christmas carols and settings of other seasonal music.

The New Norcia Carol Service is a celebration of the seasons

of Christmas and Epiphany. It was developed by Rev Anthony Bolt when he was Rector of Holy Trinity, York, and on his retirement the service moved to New Norcia. The theme of the service is carried through the lessons which tell the story of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary, Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds and the journey of the wise men, ending with the well-known passage from the beginning of St John's Gospel that tells us that "The Word became flesh".

The service has an ecumenical focus, and Rev Kathy Barrett-Lennard, former Rector of the Anglican Parish of Wongan Hills-Dalwallinu, presides at the service jointly with Abbot John. The service is preceded by afternoon tea at 4.00pm in the Monastery Parlour – to which all are invited.



The Benedictine Community of New Norcia

Invites you to the
28th Ecumenical Carol Service

Saturday 2nd January

Featuring the Georgian Singers

Afternoon Tea in the Parlour 4.00pm

Service of Readings and Carols 5.00pm

Christmas at New Norcia

Please Join Us

Christmas Eve

Thursday 24th December

Vespers 6.30pm

Vigils 8.15pm

Christmas Night Mass 10.30pm

Christmas Day

Friday 25th December

7.00am Lauds

Christmas Morning Mass 9.00am

Midday Prayer 12.00 noon

Solemn Vespers 5.30pm

with Exposition & Benediction

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NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

Christmas Gift Ideas from New Norcia



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- 1: Abbot's Table Seasonal Dinner 2021 (\$120)
- 2: New Norcia stainless steel mug (\$19.95)
- 3: New Norcia inkwell, quill & pen stand (\$29.99)
- 4: Olive wood crucifix on stand (\$14.99)
- 5: New Norcia cap in red, black or blue (\$14.99)

- 6: Bread knife, handmade from WA sheoak (\$39.99)
- 7: New Norcia Nut Cake (\$11.99 or \$18.80)
- 8: New Norcia Abbey Ale (\$84.99 / carton)
- 9: New Norcia Abbey Rosé (\$23.90)

Please visit our webshop at www.norcia.wa.edu.au.