



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

The Chimes Newsletter



March 2022

New Norcia Bakery Oven Maintenance

For a week at the beginning of January, we relied on stocks of bread while the old wood-fired bakery oven firebox got some long-needed maintenance.

The New Norcia bakery is hidden away from public sight, but the oven, built back in 1902, is a truly magnificent piece of construction. It is a huge sprung arch oven space, with a ceramic fire box to one side. New Norcia Baker, Terry Nuske, and his crew expertly manage the oven with a wood fire and a baffle, which is all they have to maintain the perfect baking temperatures. They place their dough and recover the cooked loaves using 4m long wooden peels.

First the cast iron firebox doors and surround had to be removed and the team from Granville Refractories demolished the walls and hearth, carefully leaving the arched roof of the firebox undisturbed and intact.

In the process of demolition, they discovered evidence

of several previous repairs, mostly using ordinary house bricks of various types. As they progressed, they got down to the original hand-made clay bricks, probably made using local clay from around the river.

They then started the painstaking and precise job of rebuilding the hearth and the firebox walls, all the time being careful not to disturb the arched roof. That process took three days and involved precisely placing anchored bolts to refix the cast iron surround that was in Perth being repaired.

Finally, the surround and cast iron door were refitted, having been returned from Perth where they were repaired by Beurs Engineering. The oven was ready after a few days to allow the ceramic mortar to set and dry.

By Jim Longbottom



Above: Justin, Sriyana and Quam from Granville Refractories (photos by Jim Longbottom)

St Gertrude's Flat

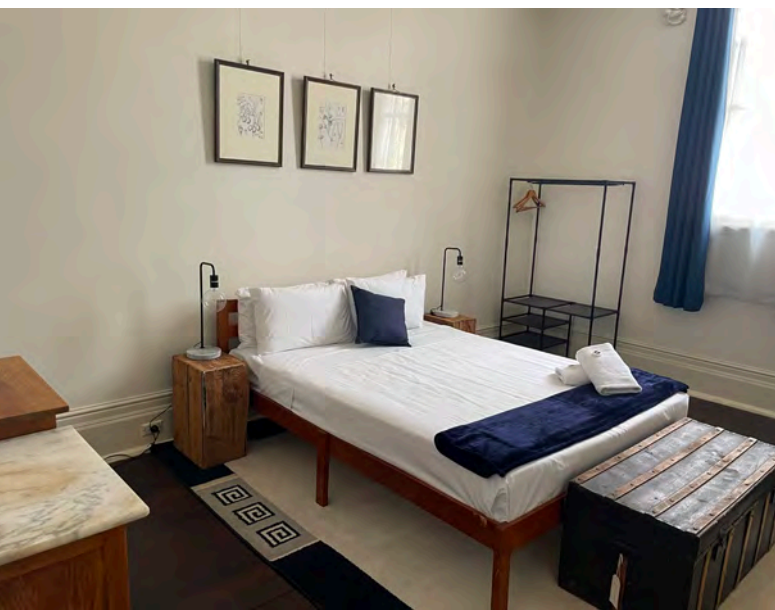
Ian and the grounds team, Joyce and the group accommodation team, and Carmel Murray have all been busy transitioning St Gertrude's flat into an updated and reinvigorated space.

St Gertrude's flat is located in the southern side of the St Gertrude's college and, among other things, was where nuns and staff would reside during its days as a boarding school. The area has undergone changes over the years, including the addition of partitioning to create additional rooms and carpet over the original jarrah floorboards and, in recent times, has been used to accommodate visiting groups as part of the college or as a stand-alone venue.

The partitioning has now been removed, along with the old carpet to reveal the beautiful old floors. Bedroom and bathroom walls have been painted, the original pressed metal ceilings repaired, new wall art from New Norcia's collection hung, and furniture has been reclaimed from New Norcia's storage for use in the bedrooms and other areas.

All this work has revealed a beautiful venue for smaller groups to stay. There are four queen rooms, with stunningly high ceilings and open spaces (one downstairs with a large ensuite with disabled facilities, and three upstairs). There is a tea room, spacious lounge and dining rooms boasting period furniture and architectural features, and a bright country style kitchen with optional self-catering facilities. To top it off, a secluded upstairs veranda is the perfect spot for a morning cup of tea or a quiet sundowner.

If you would like more information about booking this unique venue, please contact Joyce on 9654 8018 or groups@newnorcia.wa.edu.au.



New Norcia Guesthouse

The Guesthouse has undergone a 'summer makeover'. Bed linen has been updated, new artwork installed in the bedrooms and pieces of shared furniture have been placed in the loungeroom. However, the tranquil environment remains unchanged and if you are looking for a quiet and restful break we encourage you to call Bernadette on 9654 8002 to book your next visit with us.



Salvado Café Bar

With all the upgrades and changes in town, the Roadhouse has not been left behind. New counter benches, seats and a couch have been placed inside. Outside, new tables with umbrellas and pot plants create a relaxing place for visitors.

With a small licensed bar, visitors can now enjoy a drink between 11am-4.30pm.



BAR LIST

- NEW NORCIA ABBEY ALE
\$8
- NEW NORCIA PALE ALE
\$8
- STANDARD BEER & CIDER
\$7
- PREMIX SPIRITS
\$8
- PROSECCO (200 ml)
\$10
- WHITE & RED WINE
Glass \$7 Bottle \$20
- NEW NORCIA BLANC de BLANC
Glass \$10 Bottle \$35
- NEW NORCIA PORT
\$5



Easter at New Norcia

Please Join Us

HOLY THURSDAY – April 14

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY – April 15

Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY – April 16

Recital – “Harmonies poétiques et religieuses”

Music meditation of Franz Liszt

St Gertrude's College, 10:30am

EASTER SUNDAY – April 17

Easter Vigil 4.30am

Mass of Day 9am

Solemn Paschal Vespers 5.30pm

Enquiries: (08) 9654 8018 or information@newnorcia.wa.edu.au



Easter at New Norcia

Trading Hours

Roadhouse

Good Friday, Holy Saturday,
Easter Sunday & Easter Monday
7.30am - 5pm

Museum & Art Gallery

Good Friday: CLOSED
Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday & Easter Monday
9.30am - 4.30pm
Daily tours at 11am and 1.30pm
(excluding Good Friday)

Administration

Closed from Friday 15th - Monday 18th



The Musical Reflections of New Norcia

25 JUNE 2022 | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

In response to frequent requests from audiences, New Norcia's Fr. Robert Nixon will perform a recital of his own compositions, showcasing his style and approach. Many of these are inspired by the atmosphere and surroundings of New Norcia. Fr. Robert will also speak about some of the themes and ideas in each piece.

The performance will commence at 6.30pm at the New Norcia Hostel. A light supper and drinks will be served.

To book, please visit www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY





Institute for Benedictine Studies, 2022

From the Director

The times in which we live are deeply uncertain on many levels: it often seems as if our world, our society, and our Church are being assailed by unexpected and unpredictable tempests. In such conditions, the inner life of the spirit is of paramount importance. Amidst the turbulent fluctuations of passing material things, the human heart is increasingly drawn to eternal realities—God, the soul, and the love which is both the means and goal of our final and everlasting salvation. Our need for God has never been greater. For, in the words of Pope Francis, “God is the light that illuminates the darkness, and a spark of divine light is within each of us.”

In 2022, we are excited to offer a varied and stimulating range of retreats and study weekends. In keeping with the Benedictine charism of hospitality, the monastic community is delighted to welcome as our guests persons from all backgrounds of life. Our tranquil and scenic environment and the quiet prayerfulness of the monastic routine form the perfect setting for seeking peace, enlightenment, renewal and clarity.

In pace Christi,

Fr. Robert Nixon, osb

Programme

March 25–27
Study Weekend
A Course in Reading Gregorian
Notation for Musicians

April 1–3
Writing Your Spiritual
Autobiography

April 29 – May 1
Love Stronger than Death: The
Martyrs of the Diocletian Persecution

May 27–29
Benedictine Experience Weekend II

July 15–17
St. Bonaventure: The Journey of the
Mind into God

August 5–7
Benedictine Experience Weekend III

August 19–21
Study Weekend
An Introduction to Church Latin

September 9–11
“Letting Go”

September 30 – October 2
Meister Eckhart: Seeking the God of
Radical Otherness

October 28–30
Benedictine Experience Weekend IV

Costs

Participants are asked to contribute \$250, which covers the course expenses and full board for two nights (Friday & Saturday) at the Monastery Guesthouse. It also includes entry into the Museum & Art Gallery.

For Enquiries & Bookings

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

Mariston Joseph Anton's Wedding Day



We congratulate Mariston Joseph Anton on his recent marriage to Sutharniga Easwarasivaji, following their seven-year long distance relationship. The wedding took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on February 7th in front of very close family and friends.

Mariston has returned to Australia, and Sutharniga will move to Perth to join him in the coming weeks.

Mariston is the son of Joseph and Mary Anton who, along with their daughter Daffodil, moved to New Norcia from Sri Lanka in 2007.



New Norcia Bakery Products Available

New Norcia Bakery products are available to purchase from the Museum & Art Gallery, Roadhouse or online at giftshop (www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au), following repairs to our wood-fired oven.

Products include our Nut Cake, Biscotti, Pan Chocolatti, breads and tarts. Hot cross buns will be available two weeks prior to Easter.

