



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

# The Chimes Newsletter



*May 2022*

## Olive Harvesting 2022

New Norcia's olive harvest is underway and 'so far so good' – yields and quality appear to be high (the first load yielded 11.4%).

With the grounds team currently understaffed, Ian and Shady, as well as the monks, were grateful to receive extra help to pick and sort the olives, by way of both mechanical and extra boots on the ground.

MercyCare's Employment Pathways help refugees and asylum seekers to identify their skills and interests and match them to available work opportunities. New Norcia was fortunate to receive two of their people, Ilshat from

Kazakhstan and Yohannes from Eritrea, Africa. Ilshat's wife, Ilnuf, also helped in a volunteer capacity. We were very grateful for their help.

This year we purchased an OliNet, an aid used for harvesting olives with folding arms and a trunk sealing system. Olives were picked both by hand and with mechanical olive rakes, collected in the suspended net, and funnelled into storage tubs. It proved to be fast and reliable to setup and made harvesting more efficient.

Below are photos taken on a beautiful Autumn day, harvesting this season's olives.



*Top L: Ilshat from Kazakhstan, Fr David & Yohannes from Eritrea, Africa. Top R: Shady & Fr David. Bottom L: Ilnuf & Ilshat from Kazakhstan. Bottom R: the OliNet in use.*





## An Update from the Guesthouse

The Monastery Guesthouse has had a busy five months. Although COVID has caused many cancellations, we have still had a steady stream of guests eager to visit our beautiful, historic town, to join the monks in Prayer and marvel at the hidden gems found in the Museum and Art Gallery.

The organised retreat weekends have filled fast, many being booked out. The next retreat with places still available is the Benedictine Experience Weekend on the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> August. To register for this, go to the website

shop ([www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au)) and click on the icon for that weekend. Alternatively, please don't hesitate to call the Guesthouse office on 96548002.

We look forward to welcoming you to New Norcia before the year's end.

Keep safe and well

**Bernadette, Guesthouse Manager**

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## New Book Releases

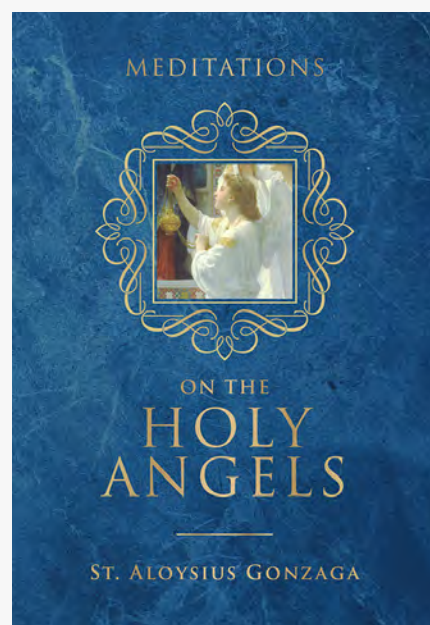
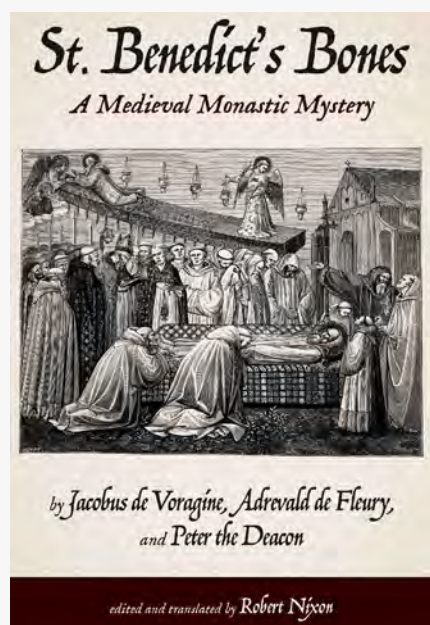
Fr. Robert Nixon has two new translations available, both released by prominent USA publishers. *St Benedict's Bones: A Medieval Monastic Mystery* documents the complex saga of the mortal remains of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica. Shortly after Benedict's death, his monastery at Monte Cassino was destroyed by Lombard invaders. It was at that point that one of the greatest mysteries of medieval monasticism arose - the true location of the mortal remains of this revered saint and his sister. This volume presents the first English translations of the key medieval texts relating to this famous and fascinating mystery. A translation of a 13<sup>th</sup>-century version of the life of Benedict is also included in the volume.

*Meditations on the Holy Angels* is the only major work written by the popular saint, Aloysius Gonzaga, presented now in English for the first time. This 16<sup>th</sup>-century Jesuit saint died at a very young age, but his sanctity and innocence won for him widespread devotion and veneration. This inspired treatise, written shortly before the saint's

death in his early twenties, offers insights into the wondrous role of the angels (including Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and the guardian angel) in the lives of all Christians.

Copies of both are available (or available for pre-order) through the New Norcia giftshop, online at [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au) and all major online retailers.

Fr. Robert's translations of *The Crown of the Virgin* by St Ildephonsus, and *Humility and the Elevation of the Mind to God* by Thomas á Kempis have also been released as audiobooks, available through Amazon and other outlets.



# Mandorla Art Award at Holmes à Court Gallery

Australia's most significant thematic Christian art prize opened on Saturday 21st May, at Holmes à Court Gallery in West Perth. The Award has attracted some of the nation's finest artists since it was first established in 1985.

This year, of 275 submissions, 41 artists from across Australia and WA have been selected to exhibit. All artists submitting addressed the 2022 theme of Metamorphosis, with a biblical reference to Isaiah 43:19 - "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

The \$25,000 major St John of God Health Care Prize winning work will become part of the Mandorla Collection, held in perpetuity at New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery and displayed in its Mandorla Gallery.

This year the selection panel included ECU Honorary Professor Ted Snell, artist Susanna Castleden and Notre Dame University theologian Associate Professor Glenn Morrison. Judges of the award are John Curtin Gallery Director Chris Malcolm, artist Erin Coates and theologian Rev Ros Fairless.



*'When the butterfly takes wing, nothing of the caterpillar remains', pigment on timber by Mandorla 2022 Finalist Katherine Boland (NSW).*

## *Institute for Benedictine Studies, 2022*

### Retreat Programme



**July 15-17: BOOKED OUT**

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

*For Enquiries & Bookings*

*Please visit our webshop at [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).*



# The Music of Franz Liszt

27 AUGUST | NEW NORCIA HOSTEL

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) is often regarded as the greatest pianist of all time, and his work set new standards of technical virtuosity which remain unrivalled even to this day.

He was also a strikingly original composer, imaginatively transforming the styles of his time into a completely new idiom. His Catholic faith was central to his life, and he wrote numerous works inspired by religious themes, becoming a Franciscan in his later years.

This recital by New Norcia's Fr Robert Nixon will present a varied selection of Liszt's music, including all his most popular pieces, and also recount the amazing story of his life.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm at the New Norcia Hostel. A light supper and drinks will be served. Tickets are \$90, all inclusive.

To book, please visit [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).



EXPERIENCE

**NEW NORCIA**  
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY





## Recent Events at the New Norcia Hostel

Along with the Abbot's Table, the Hostel hosted two very successful Agents' dinners for Harvest Road, showcasing their famous Akoya Oysters, Harvey Beef, Negu Tropical Lager, along with New Norcia's Abbey Ale, wine and bread.

Below is the menu from one of the evenings and a photo of an agent information session in St Gertrude's College. Above is a photo from the Abbot's Table 'La Table de l' Abbé'.

### HARVEST ROAD



Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### Menu

##### Canapes

Vol-au-vent of caramelized onion and local goat's cheese  
Smoked trout mousse and Akoya oyster on toasted New Norcia sour dough bread  
*New Norcia Abbey Ale or Pale Ale / Harvest Road Negu Tropical Lager*

##### New Norcia Breads

Baked in the monastery wood-fired oven

##### Entrée

Fillet of fresh fish, deep-fried in New Norcia Abbey Ale batter, served with a dipping sauce of soy, mirin & sake and a salad of Akoya Oysters, pickled ginger & lime syrup dressing  
*New Norcia Abbey Verdelho 2021*

##### Main Course

Prime marinated Harvey Beef fillet, seared and roasted pink, served with gratin of autumn vegetables, fried potatoes, and finished with classic Café de Paris butter  
*New Norcia Abbey Shiraz 2018*

##### Dessert

Warm fig tart with passionfruit crème Anglaise and house-c churned New Norcia Abbey Liqueur Muscat ice-cream  
*New Norcia Abbey sparkling Blanc de Blanc*

##### Café

Served with treats from the monastery wood-fired oven  
*New Norcia Abbey Port*





# Fantastic Visitor Feedback!

To the ABBOT  
& Fathers of  
NEW NORCIA (COMMUNITY)  
BENEDICTINE

A little note bearing and sending all of you a sincere message of:  
**GRATITUDE** for all the sharing during the Holy Triduum.

it was my first time there, and it was a truly MAGICAL BLESSED Days —

Special thanks for Fr. NIXON OSB. for all the wonderful piano organ playing. May the Lord continue to Bless and Watch over you all,  
Pauline



16. How long were you in New Norcia? 3 nights

17. Please rate your overall experience at New Norcia  
 Excellent     Average     Unsatisfactory

18. Do you have any additional comments?  
Thank you so much for this experience. Compliments to the cook

18. Do you have any additional comments?

I thank you for your spotlessly clean environment & beautiful welcome & support from kind souls ♥ Very appreciated ♥

17. Please rate your overall experience at New Norcia  
 Excellent     Average     Unsatisfactory

18. Do you have any additional comments?

Roadhouse staff + food exceptional.

18. Do you have any additional comments?

Amazing.  
Food was wholesome & the experience was spiritually nourishing

17. Please rate your overall experience at New Norcia  
 Excellent     Average     Unsatisfactory

18. Do you have any additional comments?

Public service is very good  
friendly personal staff thank you

19. Contact details (optional)

7. Please rate your overall experience at New Norcia  
 Excellent     Average     Unsatisfactory

8. Do you have any additional comments?

Bernadette and staff I met at the Roadhouse Cafe were all very friendly, cheerful and welcoming - thank you.

How do you rate your overall experience?

EXCELLENT     AVERAGE     UNSATISFACTORY

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

The food was exceptional. The hotel was just beautiful - everything was clean service from all staff was amazing!

# Ruth, Naomi and Orpah – Women of extraordinary faith and fidelity...

The **Book of Ruth** is the story of **Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah** – three widows who must find ways to secure their future. Through famine, they are away from their homeland with almost no prospect of improving their security. In an era where the fate of widows was largely determined by the goodwill and generosity of others, the loyalty of these women to each other shapes the future each of them will experience.

Their faith and fidelity to God and to each other is extraordinary, as is God's providential presence in their lives. On this day of reflection, we will consider the lives and actions of each woman, drawing inspiration from the Book of Ruth for our lives now, as Christian women in the twenty-first century.

Women of all Christian denominations are welcome to join the women of New Norcia parish for a day of fellowship, reflection and prayer, where we will explore the lives of three inspiring women in the Book of Ruth – Naomi, Ruth and Orpah.



*Naomi entreating Ruth and Orpah to return to the land of Moab, William Blake, 1795*

- Date**                    **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00 – 3.00 (morning tea at 9.30)**
- Venue**                   **New Norcia Institute of Benedictine Studies building (opposite side of road to Abbey Church)**
- Catering**              **There is no charge for attendance, but if you can bring a plate for a shared lunch, that will be appreciated**
- To register**            **Please email Carmel at [carmelmo8@bigpond.com](mailto:carmelmo8@bigpond.com) or call 0408 124404 by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June.**