



## NEW NORCIA INSTITUTE FOR BENEDICTINE STUDIES

May 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

I extend our warmest greetings from the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies, and sincerely hope that you and your family have retained good health and spirits throughout the current period of crisis. By the grace of God, restrictions are now beginning to be progressively relaxed, and accordingly I am delighted to advise that the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies will recommence its scheduled retreats from July and our Guesthouse has now reopened again.

Our programme of events for the remainder of the year includes a weekend on female Benedictine mystics of the Middle Ages (Hildegard of Bingen, Elisabeth of Schonau, Gertrude the Great and Mechtilde of Hackeborn), on July 10-12. On September 25-27, we will be conducting a weekend on Gregorian chant, which will equip musicians who can read modern musical notation to interpret chant scores.

Following the success of Sr. Lilian Bong's retreat last year, we are delighted to have her as a guest presenter for a retreat on the important theme of 'Letting Go', on August 14-16. The next of our ever-popular Benedictine Experience weekends will take place on November 6-8.

Finally, our Institute Day on August 1, promises to be fascinating, focusing on the subject of 'Monastic Reformers'. Our keynote speaker will be Fr. Joseph Chau, ocsb, Novice Master at Tarrawarra, who will present some very illuminating insights into the life, personality and work of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Several monks of New Norcia, including Fr. David Barry, Dom Paul Forster and my humble self, will also contribute sessions.

In addition to our programmed events, we are delighted to offer 'custom retreats' for groups of six or more, as well as individual guided retreats. The atmosphere of tranquillity and quiet of the monastery, our regular rhythm of prayer, and the natural and artistic beauty of our environment, are all highly conducive to reflection, refreshment and spiritual renewal.

We sincerely hope the opportunities we offer are of interest to you, and look forward to seeing you in our (soon-to-be) post Covid-19 world. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at [institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:institute@newnorcia.wa.edu.au), with any questions or enquiries.

*In pace Christi,*

Fr. Robert Nixon, osb  
*Director,*  
*New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies*