

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

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A classy country wedding

Last month, on Friday 4th October, 110 family and friends gathered to witness and celebrate the marriage of Isabella Clune and Wyatt Verhoogt.

The marriage ceremony, presided over by Abbot John, took place in the popular wedding venue of St Ildephonsus' chapel which was adorned with beautifully designed flower arrangements...how handy it is to have a family member as a florist. While the stunning bride and handsome groom took 'centre-stage', the six young flower girls and page boys made every effort to steal the show.

Guests stayed overnight in every accommodation venue New Norcia has to offer, and enjoyed a cooked breakfast in St Ild's dining room the next morning...it's amazing what bacon and eggs can do for the after effects of such a great occasion!

Thank you to Hannah from [Keeper Creative](#) for the amazing photography.



Pastoral visit to St Mark's Abbey Camperdown

Abbot John made a quick trip to Victoria on October 6-11th to pay a pastoral visit to St Mark's Abbey Camperdown, meeting with Sr Raphael, James the community solicitor, and the committee.

It was a productive visit, and it was good to see recent developments such as the establishment of a gathering space overlooking the lake, and the building of a dry-stone wall to enclose the monastery cemetery.

The visit included spontaneous participation in the local parish council meeting and a beautiful dinner (the table set with all manner of finery) at parish priest Fr Andrew's rectory, the home of the community before it settled on the present site.

Along with Joe Naccarata (Comwalls) and Jo Umbers (formerly Cornwalls), he then went on to visit John Date and his wife Jennifer, blessing their new rooms at Kew Gardens and anointed them. John has done a lot of pro-bono legal work for New Norcia over the years.

The trip provided a perfect opportunity for Abbot John to visit his mother with a bunch of flowers for her 90th birthday. Not having to move far, she is now happily settled into the nursing home directly opposite her unit.



Abbot John anointing John and Jennifer Date



Construction of a dry-stone wall at St Mark's Camperdown



Abbot John with his mother Dorothy and brother Paul

Town renovation works



The Maintenance Workshop roof

The maintenance workshop was built somewhere around the 1960s.

The 60+ year old roof had a few too many holes, and was replaced during the month by Top Gun Roofing.

Happily most all of the roof purlins were in good condition and did not need replacing. We should be in great shape now for the next 100 years!



The Old Trading Post

Renovation work of the Old Trading Post building, between the Visitor Centre and the Roadhouse/Salvado Café, has been ongoing for several months now.

It is set to become the home of the Mandorla artworks and to house resident artists from time to time. Works proceed in an ordered manner orchestrated by Ian Smith our Property Manager. The latest of these involved a week of expert earth works, block laying and asphalt works, all undertaken by Pave-Mix who are bitumen paving and earthwork specialists.





Monastery Guesthouse

As 2024 is almost over, we begin to make plans for Christmas and the New Year.

There are vacancies in the Monastery Guesthouse for the months of December, January and February if you would like to treat yourself to a few quiet days away. Although it can be very hot here at this time, we can comfortably accommodate groups or individuals in the 8 twin -share, ensuite rooms with air-conditioning. The Guesthouse lounge and dining room are also air conditioned.

If you are looking for a unique gift for someone, consider a gift voucher for a day or two at the Monastery Guesthouse. To enquire about vouchers please call Bernadette on 0429 919 000 or email to guesthouse@newnorcia.com.au

Notice of Change to Monastic Horarium

*Compline Monday – Friday will be celebrated at 8.00pm
Anticipated Sunday Vigils on Saturday night will be celebrated at 8.00pm
Effective from Monday 2nd December 2024*

Monday – Saturday Schedule	
4.45	Rise
5.00	Vigils Breakfast /Private Prayer
6.30	Lauds
7.30	Conventual Mass (in oratory) Breakfast/Free Time
9.00	Work
12.00	Angelus Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Midday Prayer Silent Lunch (with reading) Recreation
1.30	Siesta
2.30	Afternoon Prayer (followed by rosary on Mondays)
2.45	Work
4.15	Afternoon Tea /Free Time
5.45	Lectio Divina/Quiet Time
6.25	Statio
6.30	Vesper Silent Tea (with reading and music) News/Free Time
8.00	Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Compline Great Silence (until 8.00 a.m.)

Sunday Schedule	
5.45	Rise
6.00	Lauds Breakfast /Private Prayer
8.45	Confessions
9.00	Conventual Mass (in church)
12.00	Angelus Lectio Divina/Silent Prayer Midday Prayer Silent Lunch (with reading) Recreation
1.30	Siesta
4.15	Afternoon Tea
5.30	Vespers (in church)
6.30	Silent Tea (with music)
7.30	Compline TV – Otherwise Great Silence (until 8.00 a.m.)

Variations on Saturdays
8.30 a.m. Choir Practice
8.00 p.m. Vigils of Sunday

Groups Bookings at New Norcia

Suggested Day Programme 2024

10:00am	Arrive at New Norcia
10.30 pm	Private Tour 1 hour with a tour guide dedicated to your group. An opportunity to see 'behind closed doors' in Australia's only monastic town. Your guide will introduce you to New Norcia's eclectic Monastic, Aboriginal and European heritage as you see some of the town's richly decorated buildings, 27 of which are listed on the National Trust and not otherwise accessible to the public. Other highlights include the Flour Mill, Abbey Church and beautifully frescoed college chapels.
12.00 pm	Monastery Oratory (optional) Join the monks for midday prayers inside the Monastery Oratory. All faiths are welcome.
12.30 pm	Lunch (optional, not included in price) Experience old world grandeur by having lunch in the dining room of the beautiful New Norcia Hostel. Please inform us of your meal preference at least 7 days prior to your visit and if there are any dietary requirements.
1.30pm	Museum & Art Gallery New Norcia is home to one of the finest collections of moveable heritage in Australia. Gifts from the Queen of Spain and a fascinating array of artefacts tell the story of New Norcia's 170-year old history. The galleries feature religious paintings by Spanish and Italian Masters and Australian Contemporary Artists.
3.30pm	The Gift Shop Free time to browse our shop and pick up last-minute gifts and goodies. The shop offers a range of local produce including New Norcia Abbey Wines, breads, Nut Cake, Pan Chocolatti, New Norcia Olive Oil, art, books and music.
4.15 pm	Leave New Norcia Taking with you some special lasting memories. Have a safe journey home and thank you for visiting our beautiful town.

Bookings can be made through the New Norcia Museum. Please call 08 9654 8056.



A visit from the Four Divine Will Sisters

Four Divine Will Sisters from Italy and the USA passed through on their way to give retreats in Chittering, enjoying a night in the guesthouse, tours of monastery and town, and prayers, Mass and a meal with the monks.

Welcome Todd Mawdesley

Todd is our new Roadhouse/Salvado Café manager.

Todd is a Perth, south of the river man, hailing from the Wellard area.

He has a wonderfully varied background, starting his working life as a trained phlebotomist with the Red Cross. This led to other allied health roles when he worked "on the mines" as an emergency paramedic and then to working in the Occupational Health and Safety area.

He has Roadhouse management in his blood, following in the footsteps of his Mum who sadly passed recently.

Todd has moved here with his partner Noren, dog Archie (chihuahua/Maltese cross) and cat Oreo. (Oreo refuses to be defined by a breed, preferring to dominate the house).

Todd and Ren have come to experience different things, find new challenges and explore new horizons.

Todd says

"I'm loving it so far, I had a few rough days, but I have a great staff who all pull together and want the very best for the Roadhouse café."



The Abbot's Table: Spring

16th November 2024

The Abbot's Table: Spring is now sold out. Keep an eye out for the summer edition which will be taking place in late February 2025.



Musical Soirée with Father Robert Nixon OSB

16th December 2024

The Musical Soirée with Father Robert Nixon is now sold out. Keep an eye out for the next concert which will take place in early March 2025.



New Norcia Retreat and Study Programme for 2025 now available

We are very pleased to announce that the programme for New Norcia's retreats and courses are now available for 2025.

On offer is a series of varied events focusing on Benedictine spirituality, meditation, and the cultivation of inner peace and freedom. As well as our customary weekend retreats, a number of one-day options is also available.

Our weekend and one-day retreats are an opportunity to step back from the usual concerns of life into a setting of tranquility and reflection, and to absorb the ancient wisdom of our monastic tradition. Participants are encouraged to book well in advance, as events are often fully booked.

Please visit the New Norcia online giftshop, at:

shop.newnorcia.com.au

Date	Retreat	Length
February 28 to March 2	<p>Pre-Lent Retreat—Uncluttering our Lives and Hearts (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB)</p> <p>For forty days before commencing His public ministry, Jesus retreated into the desert, fasting and living a life of absolute simplicity. In imitation of this example, the forty days of Lent should be for Christians a time of consciously uncluttering our lives and heart, and freeing ourselves from all the extraneous baggage and complexities which hold us back from the freedom and simplicity to which God is calling us. This weekend retreat will prepare participants for a fruitful and effective Lenten experience.</p>	Weekend retreat
March 15	<p>Seeing Is Believing (Virginia Jealous)</p> <p>A reflective and engaging day spent looking into the heart of things, paying deep attention to objects and landscapes of New Norcia. Why does this matter? How might this bring us into closer relationship with the Divine, with what Dylan Thomas called 'the force that through the green fuse drives the flower?' What doors might open if we do this with those we encounter in our daily lives? Participants will spend time inside and outside, in discussion and in active silence (thinking, watching, waiting), and walking (together or in solitude).</p>	One-day retreat
April 4-6	<p>Benedictine Secrets For Balance And Serenity (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB)</p> <p>The Benedictine way of life is recognized for its promotion of balance and serenity, and the flourishing of the Order of St. Benedict for over 1,500 years is clear testimony to this reality. This weekend retreat will unlock for participants the secret wisdom of St. Benedict, for achieving a sustainable life of balance and serenity</p>	Weekend retreat
April 25-27	<p>St. Francis Of Assisi—Prophet Of Peace And Freedom (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB)</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi is amongst the most deeply loved and admired of all the saints in the Christian tradition. He is identified with the embrace of radical Evangelical poverty, simplicity and freedom, and the encounter with the Divinity through the created world. Emerging from the chaos and turbulence of plague- and war-ravaged 13th -century Italy, he remains a source of deep inspiration for many people in the contemporary world. This weekend will draw upon the earliest primary sources, including the writings of Francis himself and the primitive hagiographical accounts, to present an authentic picture of this beloved figure.</p>	Weekend retreat



Weekend Pre-Lent Retreat - Uncluttering our Lives and Hearts

28th February - 2nd March 2025
\$360.00

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Book online via the [webshop](#).

Coming Events

From November 2024

29th November - 1st December 2024

Weekend Retreat: Benedictine Secrets For Balance and Serenity

28th February - 2nd March 2025

Weekend Retreat: Benedictine Secrets For Balance and Serenity

Visit our website for a complete list of Coming Events - newnoria.com.au/whats-on/events-calendar/current-events

Liturgical Calendar

From November 2024

Thursday 7 November
St Willibrord (Optional Memorial)

Saturday 9 November
Dedication of Lateran Basilica (Feast)

Sunday 10 November
Thirty-Second In Ordinary Time

Monday 11 November
St Martin of Tours (Memorial)

Tuesday 12 November
St Theodore of Studis (Optional Memorial)

Wednesday 13 November
All Holy Monks and Nuns

Thursday 14 November
Commemoration of the Deceased of the Monastery

Saturday 16 November
St Gertrude (Memorial)

Sunday 17 November
Thirty-Third In Ordinary Time

Tuesday 19 November
St Mechtild (Optional Memorial)

Thursday 21 November
Presentation of BVM (Memorial)

Friday 22 November
St Cecilia (Memorial)



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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New Norcia Road, New Norcia WA 6509, Australia
T: (08) 9654 8018
www.newnoria.com.au