

The Chimes



Newsletter of the Benedictine Community of New Norcia

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Holy Cross College Honours Salvado

Students honour Salvado in the opening liturgy



Abbot John presents award to Grace Birkett

On Friday 22nd November, Abbot John represented New Norcia at the Holy Cross College Annual Celebration Evening.

The evening began with a reflective liturgy featuring the inspiring life and work of missionary monk Dom Rosendo Salvado, co-founder of New Norcia.

Along with the Principal's Address and videos depicting the rich life of the Holy Cross Family in 2024, the huge gathering enjoyed fine musical and dance performances from the students.

End of year award presentations were made, with some very impressive students receiving multiple awards of excellence.

Abbot John was to present the Salvado House award to Samarra Baltaza who was unable to attend, but was pleased to present an award to year 11 student Grace Birkett for her outstanding witness to the values of the Salvado House Enrichment Pillar – Gratitude and Stewardship.

New Norcia continues to value this special connection with Holy Cross College and looks forward to all the opportunities to give expression to this in 2025.

November Moments

Faith, Family, and Fellowship

November was a month of heartfelt gatherings and cherished moments for the New Norcia community, marked by faith, tradition, and the warmth of togetherness. From celebrations of life and love to milestones of spiritual growth, each event reflected the enduring bonds that unite this close-knit community.



The Clune family gather for the interment of the ashes of Michael Clune 1942-2023

Fitting Tribute to a Local Farmer

On All Souls Day (2nd November), the Clune family gathered on their Wongan Hills farm for the interment of Michael Clune's ashes.

Terry and his sons prepared a beautiful memorial stone and plaque near Michael's favourite olive tree.

Abbot John presented the family with a framed blessing, and everyone enjoyed a hearty country brunch afterwards...an opportunity also to see all the photos of Isabella and Wyatt's recent wedding at New Norcia.



Abbot John addresses the Clune family

First Reconciliations for Jack and Laura

On the first Sunday of November, traditionally 'Parish Sunday' in New Norcia, Jack and Lara Kelly Botha made their first reconciliation.

With confessionals a thing of the past, they received the sacrament seated with the parish priest on the abbey church garden benches.

They were delighted to receive decorated crosses as a memento of the occasion, which were blessed by Fr David on his way to the monastery parlour for the usual time of reconciliation before Mass.

The congregation was equally delighted to take part in morning tea after Mass, made extra special with homemade treats, which parishioners brought along to share.



Alfresco first reconciliations



Fr David blessing crosses



Wedding Celebration

St Ildephonsus' chapel opened its doors on Saturday 9th November for a Nuptial Mass to celebrate the Holy Matrimony of Alex Brown and Michelle Maretha.

Everything was beautifully prepared, including lovely spring cottage flowers arranged by the bride herself!



Honouring Maureen Wild

On Monday 4th November, Abbot John travelled to Mandurah for the Memorial Mass of long-time friend of New Norcia, Maureen Wild.

Maureen and daughters Loretta and Deb have a long association with the New Norcia Community. They have been coming for their annual weekend retreat which later became twice a year. Maureen loved chatting to the monks and guests in the monastery guesthouse.

Aged 87, Maureen passed away peacefully after a short illness in Mercy Place Nursing Home on Saturday 26th October.

She leaves behind her husband of 68 years, Ernest; she was the much-loved mother of Loretta, Deb and Kelly, mother-in-law to Steve and Leanne.

Maureen had three sisters, Beverley, Leonie, and Kerry (deceased). She also had two half-brothers, Bernie and Tony.

Maureen was a proud grandmother of nine and delighted great grandmother of nine.

Beyond her work life and family commitments, Maureen had a rich array of personal interests and hobbies that brought her joy and fulfilment.

Maureen and Ernest managed two hotels, The Dwellingup Community Hotel and the Hordern Hotel in Narrogin, from 1969 to 1976. As a warm and welcoming person, she was able to express herself fully in this role and often chatted about this time in her later life.

She loved spending time in nature, especially the Dwellingup bush. Other interests were birdwatching, yoga and Banjo Patterson's poetry. She often recited excerpts from hilarious limericks.

The Mass was well attended, included moving tributes, and the liturgy was enhanced with much participation from local Mandurah parishioners.

Book your next sundowner at New Norcia in St Ildephonsus' Courtyard

Bookings available from February 2025



For more information, please contact Joyce:
groups@newnorcia.com.au



German Car Club

On Sunday 3rd November, over one hundred German car enthusiasts drove into town to enjoy a beautiful Spring day at New Norcia.

Along with comparing engines, designs, vintages and the like, club members enjoyed freshly brewed coffee and bratwurst sausages from their own pop up stalls.

New Norcia Groups and Central Catering offered Benedictine hospitality by providing lunch boxes featuring New Norcia bread, and abbey wine and beer at St Ild's.



Members of the German Car Club line up to show off their machines.
 Above: Bratwurst stall on St Ild's lawn.



New branding for the New Norcia Roadhouse

With Fuel Distributors being awarded the fuel contract came the opportunity to rebrand the exterior of the roadhouse.

Axiom designed the branding and it was installed during November giving a great facelift for the building, and better aligning the roadhouse with branding across the site.



Trading Post renovation work continues

The external works to the old Trading Post are getting very close to completion.

This week saw the foundation concrete painted in "New Norcia red" giving a very striking accent to a very beautiful building.

The worker doing the painting... Dimitri Bakarozos, the newest member of the Grounds and Maintenance team.

Dimitri is Greek, and started his working life as an aeronautical technician maintaining jet engines, as a member of the Greek air force.

In recent years he has worked in the Catholic schools system in Perth and Kalgoorlie as a maintenance worker. He will be joined by his wife and two adult sons in the new year.



Heritage Builder Extraordinaire John Brassington working on monastery south wing verandas.

Swan Song

Our heritage builder and dear friend of many years John Brassington is soon to retire.

We are pleased that one of his final projects was to complete the final stage of urgent works on the monastery verandas.

John has completed countless projects across the site, an extraordinary contribution to the conservation and restoration of New Norcia's beautiful, yet fragile buildings.

We express our sincere gratitude to John and wish him every blessing in his retirement...while praying that when he's a bit bored with retirement, he'll return to do the odd gentle project in the future!



Fr Cyprian Consiglio

Monastic Visit

During the Abbot's Congress at Sant' Anselmo in Rome, Abbot John met Fr Cyprian Consiglio, a Camaldolese Benedictine from the monastery of Big Sur on the central coast of California.

Fr Cyprian is the newly appointed Secretary General of Dialogue Interreligieux Monastique (DIM) or Monastic Interreligious Dialogue (MID) and a brilliant guitarist and song writer.

Impressed by his presentation at the Congress, and after learning that Fr Cyprian was going to be in Australia, Abbot John invited him to visit New Norcia.

Fr Cyprian accepted the invitation and graciously presented a day of fascinating talks to the monks and a few oblates and staff in the monastery.

His knowledge of and passion for interreligious dialogue, interspersed with some beautiful music, which included some of his new compositions, was inspiring and deeply moving.

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia

Extends an invitation to the
32nd Annual
Ecumenical Carol Service
Saturday 28th December 2024

Featuring the Georgian Singers

Afternoon Tea in the Monastery Parlour 4.00pm

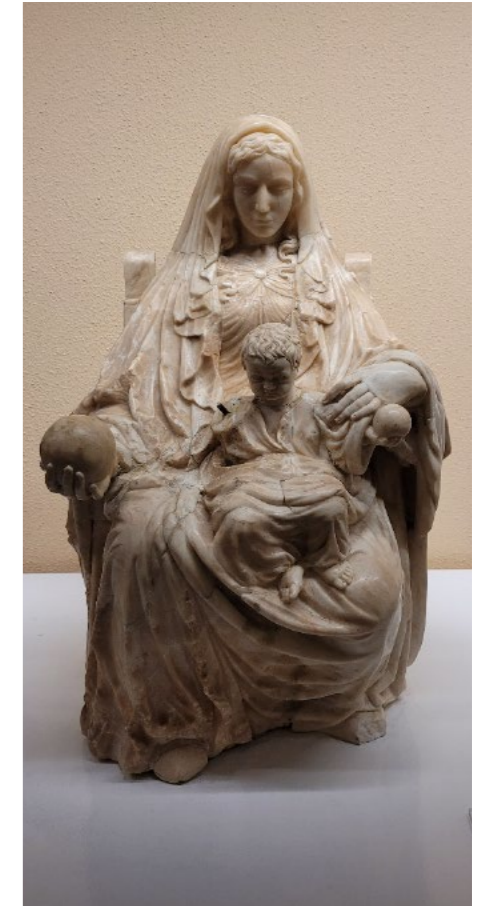
Carols in the Abbey Church 5.00pm



The monastic community
and everyone at New Norcia,
wish you a very happy and
holy Christmas,
and blessings in 2025.

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

Photo by Abbot John: Our Lady of Montserrat sitting on a monk's chair.
Montserrat Museum, 2024.





Loyal regulars Tony & Marian Giglia and Daniel and Katie Lynch enjoying a cocktail in the lounge before dinner

The Abbot's Table: Spring

On Saturday 16th November, fifty-two guests gathered at the New Norcia Hostel for the Spring Abbot's Table.

Along with our loyal regulars and several newcomers, we were pleased to welcome award-winning apprentice chef, Kyle Victoriano, a local 'New Norcian', who prepared an exquisite dessert.

We look forward to following the career of this very gifted young man.

One lucky table was set with our most recent donation – a beautiful canteen of silver-plate cutlery donated by Bernice Reid, who even washed and polished it for us!

If you are looking for a home for any fine tableware you no longer use – it will be much appreciated, used, and cared for at the New Norcia Hostel. Contact Director of Visitor Services Carmel Murray: info@newnorcia.com.au

Le Menu
Pain Artisanal
A selection of hand-crafted bread baked in the monastery wood-fired oven, New Norcia award-winning extra virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and French butter.
Entrée
<i>Crevettes fraîches à la sauce romesco</i>
Fresh West Australian grilled prawns brushed with romesco sauce, served with a salad of spring vegetables, dressed with citrus vinaigrette, and drizzled with prawn bisque. Vin: Paul Mas Sauvignon Blanc 2022
Plat Principal
<i>Une célébration du printemps</i>
Seared noisette of spring lamb with rosemary infused jus; Roasted baby spring chicken marinated in yoghurt and Persian spices; Pan-fried parmesan and pistachio crumbed escalope of spring veal with house tomato and preserved lemon chutney. Fried potatoes with roasted garlic and aioli. Vin: Capel Vale Regional Series Mount Barker Shiraz 2021
Musical Interlude
Fromage du Jour
Served with toasted New Norcia fruit and nut loaf.
Dessert
<i>Mousse au chocolat blanc et thym citronné</i>
(prepared by award-winning guest apprentice chef Kyle Victoriano) White chocolate and lemon thyme mousse with a coffee-chocolate glaze, served with strawberry coulis, macadamia nut crumble and passionfruit gel. Vin: De Bortoli Deen Botrytis Semillon Vat 5
Café Gourmand
Coffee or tea, New Norcia Abbey Port or Liqueur Muscat, treats from the monastery wood-fired oven.



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	Pre-Lent Retreat—Uncluttering our Lives and Hearts (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB) 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.	Weekend retreat
March 15	Seeing is Believing (Virginia Jealous) 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).	One-day retreat
April 4-6	Benedictine Secrets for Balance and Serenity (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB) The Benedictine way of life is recognised 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.	Weekend retreat
April 25-27	St. Francis of Assisi—Prophet of Peace and Freedom (Fr. Robert Nixon, OSB) 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 13 th 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.	Weekend retreat



Abbot's Table: Summer

22nd February 2025
\$180.00

We are pleased to announce the date for the first dinner of 2025, to be held at the grand old New Norcia Hostel.

This series celebrates a set four-course menu of fresh seasonal produce and showcases New Norcia wood-fired bakery products, olive oil, Abbey Ale and Abbey wines, to be shared with family and friends – or strangers – in this special place, a town like no other.

In the spirit of community, guests will sit together at long tables throughout the venue.

- Pre-dinner drinks begin at 6.00 p.m.
- All-inclusive dinner: \$180 per person
- When booking, please notify us of any special dietary allergies.

Book online via the [webshop](#).

PLEASE NOTE: For group bookings: please list the name of each group member attending in the notes section of your order. There is a limit of 8 tickets per booking. Thank you!

Coming Events

From December 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 – newnorcia.com.au/whats-on/events-calendar/current-events

Liturgical Calendar

From December 2024

Sunday 1 December First Sunday of Advent	•	Sunday 25 December Christmas
Sunday 8 December Second Sunday of Advent	•	Sunday 26 December St Stephen
Monday 6 December Immaculate Conception	•	Sunday 27 December St John
Sunday 15 December Third Sunday of Advent	•	Sunday 29 December Holy Innocents
Sunday 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent	•	Sunday 29 December Holy Family
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	•	



NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

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