



From the Director's Desk

The great 20th century theologian, Karl Rahner sj, once said that "the Christian of the 21st century will be a mystic or not a Christian at all". This provocative pronouncement is not so unimaginable if one understands the abundance of opportunities given to us to experience the deep presence of God in our everyday life.

Mysticism involves our personal encounter with the living God and when we open our eyes and ears to the myriad of moments that God comes to us throughout a single day – the smile of a stranger, the touch of someone who cares, the joy felt in serving another, the sense of awe and wonder in liturgical and private prayer – all these little things that make life whole – this is when we experience a deep awareness of the mysterious presence of God in the ordinary events of our lives.

Much of what we are offering in this year's programme for the New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies touches on the desire for, and experience of mystery in our lives today. May you find here something to lift your hearts and minds in hope that God is indeed infused in every facet of your life.

Dr Carmel Posa sgs



Annual Institute Day

TO BE CONFIRMED

Cost: \$60

Includes morning tea and lunch



NEW NORCIA Institute for Benedictine Studies

For the love of learning and the desire for God

The New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies seeks to broaden and deepen awareness of the monastic tradition within Christianity. Offering an environment conducive to prayer, study and reflection with excellence in teaching and research, the Institute aims to encourage participants at all stages of life to reflect on their journey of faith with the pastoral support of rich traditions in prayer, discernment and discipleship, whether as lay people, professed religious, academics, or in ordained ministry.



For all enquiries and bookings for any of the listed events please contact:

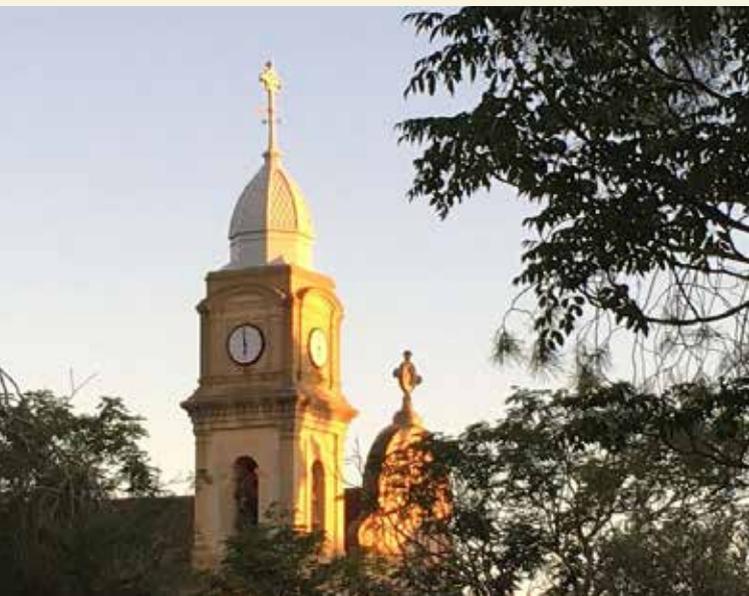
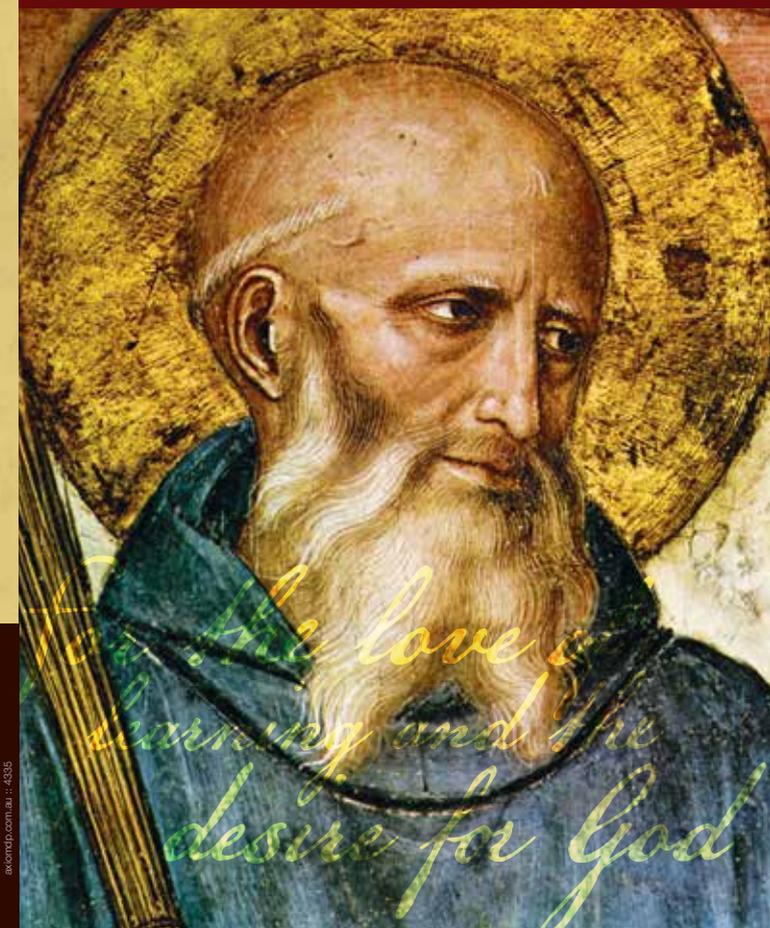
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NEW NORCIA Institute for Benedictine Studies and Benedictine Experience Weekends

PROGRAMME 2017



New Norcia Institute for Benedictine Studies
Great Northern Highway, New Norcia WA 6509

www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au

axomfep.com.au : 6335

Benedictine Experience Weekends

Benedictine spirituality is more readily experienced than defined. These weekends in the monastery guesthouse (beginning with Vespers at 6.30 p.m. on Friday, concluding after lunch on Sunday) provide the opportunity to enter fully into the monastic rhythm and balance of prayer, work, lectio divina, hospitality, and community life. There will be opportunities to ponder the riches of the scriptures and monastic literature, both in group discussions and personal silence and solitude, bringing from the 'storeroom, things both new and old.' Participants are also invited to join the community for silent meals in the refectory, one of many invitations to listen with the 'ear of the heart.'

February 24 – 26 | March 10 – 12 | May 19 – 21 | July 28 – 30
September 29 – October 1 | October 13 – 15 | November 24 – 26

Maximum 12 participants

Suggested Donation: \$250 (for those who can afford it)

Includes accommodation, meals and entry into the Museum & Art Gallery

For further enquiries and bookings, please contact:

Guesthouse Manager (08) 9654 8002 or email
guesthouse@newnorcia.wa.edu.au

Undergraduate / Graduate Units

CH/DS3300P – CH/DS9300P

Medieval Monastic Wisdom

Carmel Posa sgs

Unit Description: This unit explores the development of the monastic movement in the Medieval Church from 500 – 1500, with an emphasis on the examination of primary sources. The unit will present both an historical study and insights into the spirituality emanating from both male and female monastics during these centuries of Christian monasticism. It offers a method into the study of these texts in the light of present day formation for ministry and mission.

The unit will be run as one-week intensive from 17- 25 July at The Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville, Victoria.



Retreats

12 – 14 May

Praying with Mary, Mother of God

Jill O'Brien sgs

Mary's role in our life of faith is celebrated throughout the liturgical year and in devotional practices. This retreat will focus on these two aspects of prayer in order to deepen our understanding of Mary's place in the Christian tradition.

Cost: \$260

30 June – 2 July

The Rule of Benedict – A Guide for Christian Living

Margaret Malone sgs and Abbot John Herbert osb

The retreat will explore some of the many ways in which the Rule of Benedict is a guide for Christian living in our contemporary world. The practices of prayer, love and forgiveness within the community, so central to the Rule, help us in our relationships with one another and with the God we seek.

Cost: \$260

11 – 13 August

Contemplation with Thomas Merton

Carmel Posa sgs

The Cistercian monk, Thomas Merton gave us unique understanding of contemplation in a world of action. His understanding crosses denominational boundaries and unites us all in our deepest desire for communion with God, each other and our world. This little retreat, to be held at Mt St Benedict, Pennant Hills, NSW, will give participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in silence and Merton's way of prayer.

Cost: \$300

8 – 10 September

Conversations with the Wisdom of Benedictine Women

Carmel Posa sgs

Throughout the ages there have been many Benedictine women who have shared the wisdom they have acquired in their search for God. This retreat will reflect on this wisdom using the writings and lives of St Scholastica, the sister of St Benedict; St Leoba, German missionary Benedictine of the 7/8th century; Heloise of the Paraclete, acclaimed abbess of the 12th century; Dorothy Day, Benedictine Oblate and peace activist of the 20th century and Joan Chittester, Benedictine of our time, feminist and interfaith advocate.

Cost: \$260

17 – 19 November

The Coming of the Lord

Carmel Posa sgs

Advent is a time of gathering anticipation for the birth of the Saviour in our history, in our hearts and in our future. Come and spend some time in conversation and prayer exploring the significance of this joyous time for our lives and our world.

Cost: \$260

Reading Weekends / Weeks

24 – 26 March

Footwashing: Awaiting Discovery

Jill O'Brien sgs

For most Christians washing each other's feet is simply a curiosity of the liturgy. Many have never seen it done, much less done it. However it is a well founded action, one that that goes back to the practice of Jesus and is one of the signs used by John the evangelist in his preaching of the Gospel. During this weekend we will ask *what are we doing and what does it mean* when we wash each other's feet. We will discuss who might do it, what is needed and how to get started. We will consider times other than Holy Thursday when we might do footwashing.

The text book for this reading weekend will be *Washing Feet: Imitating the Example of Jesus in the Liturgy Today*, by Thomas O'Loughlin available at www.bookdepository.com or through the Institute for ~\$20.

Cost: \$300

2 – 4 June

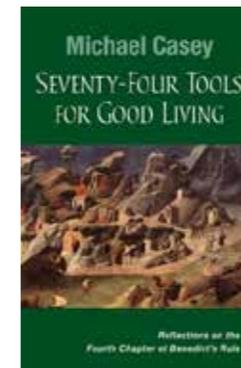
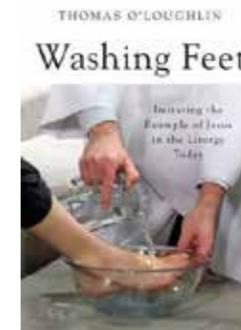
Helps for Good Living

Margaret Malone sgs

At various stages of our lives we all need some practical advice and help for living a Gospel-centred life. How can we be encouraged and helped in our search for God and in our living with one another? Benedict's 74 tools for "Good Living" in chapter 4 of his little Rule for Beginners, presents ancient wisdom which can help us live the Gospel in our contemporary world.

The text for this weekend is: *Seven-Four Tools for Good Living: Reflections on the Fourth Chapter of Benedict's Rule*, by Michael Casey, available at www.bookdepository.com or through the Institute for ~\$25.

Cost: \$300



18 – 24 July

Listening to Medieval Monastic Wisdom

Carmel Posa sgs

The spiritual writers of the Middle Ages offer us a deep and lasting wisdom to help guide and direct our desire for God and thereby enriching our daily lives. This is a chance to spend a week immersed in the wisdom of *Medieval monasticism*. Participants will join in with the Undergraduate and Graduate Students of Pilgrim Theological College from the University of Divinity, Melbourne, in exploring writings which include, *The Life of St Benedict*, Celtic Wisdom, Bernard of Clairvaux, Gertrude of Helfta, Hildegard of Bingen, Aelred of Rivaulx and Heloise of the Paraclete. There will be a Reader for the week – Cost ~\$30.

The reading week will be held at Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville, Victoria.

Cost: \$500

4 – 6 August

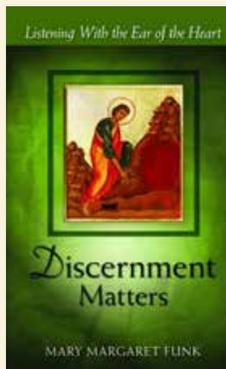
Discernment Matters

Carmel Posa sgs

In monastic spirituality, discernment is considered a "way of life", not a method for making decisions. It is about discerning the movements of the Spirit within our own hearts in our journey towards loving God and our neighbour. This weekend will explore the nature of this ancient monastic wisdom and how it can help us deepen our own humanity in the world today.

The text for this weekend is: *Discernment Matters: Listening with the Ear of the Heart*, by Margaret Funk, available at www.bookdepository.com or through the Institute for ~\$25.

Cost: \$300



27 – 29 October

Women writers of Helfta: Mystics from the 13th Century

Kym Harris osb

On this weekend we will be exploring the mystic women writers from the famous Helfta monastery in Germany – Gertrude and Mechtilde, and Mechtilde of Magdeburg. Their new and unique ways of writing about their intimate experience of the living God continue to inspire people of today in their spiritual search for God

The text for this weekend will be in the form of a series of text which will be provided ~\$10.

Cost: \$300