



from
Jamberoo Abbey

2026

May there be an outpouring of
Prayer and Peace
over our world at this time

Happy Easter! The Lord is risen. Alleluia!

Along with the Easter season, Autumn has also arrived, bringing with it the welcome relief of cooler days after a hot and humid Summer at The Abbey. As the season progresses, the big, beautiful trees that line our driveway will erupt in a riot of Autumn colours – a glorious and familiar sight to so many of you.

Holy Week and Easter was a grace-filled time at The Abbey, although the recent illness and entry into eternal life of our Sister Ancilla gave the Sacred Triduum an extra poignancy. As we entered into Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, we offered our own deep sadness at the loss of our dearly loved sister, along with our Easter joy at her rising with Christ.

We were delighted to see so many of our friends join us either in person or online for the Thanksgiving Mass on the Feast of the Presentation in February. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to thank all who have contributed so generously to our Fundraising Appeal to help us with the Re-Roofing project and other significant restoration and repair works. The next stage of the project will soon get underway, and you will read more about that below. Aware that this next stage is as vital as Stage 1 was, we pray for your ongoing support and warmly invite you to [click here to make a donation to our building fund.](#)

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy catching up on all the 'News from the Abbey'.
The Nuns of Jamberoo Abbey.

Peace be with you

I would like to begin with the beautiful Easter greeting from the resurrected Jesus which we are hearing again and again in the Readings during these days...

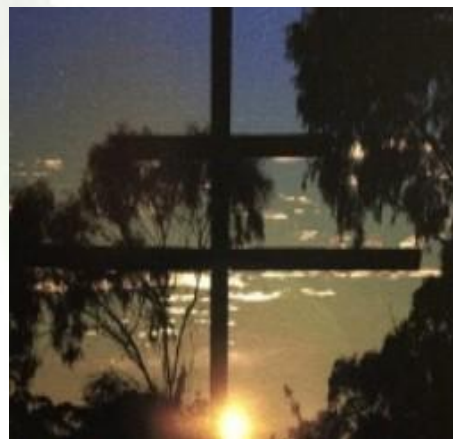
Peace be with you!

Peace be with each one of you during these glorious 50 days of Eastertide. May the Peace of Jesus be in all our hearts and may it be our prayer for one another and for the whole world.

I am sure it is no accident that Jesus used this greeting on almost every occasion that he appeared to his apostles and disciples. It is remarkable that it is His greeting after the violence of the crucifixion and it teaches us that no matter what troubles befall us in our own lives, no matter how much hatred, cruelty and acts of terror occur in our world, Peace should always be our Christian response...

to think peace,
to pray peace
to make peace and
to spread peace.

Sr Mary Barnes osb



Thanksgiving Mass

On February 2 this year, we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, which is our foundation day. We chose this day to offer a Thanksgiving Mass for all our donors, volunteers, staff and contractors, everyone who has helped us to be where we are now. Some of them attended the Mass in person, some through online livestream.

Bishop Brian Mascord celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass together with Fr Denis Minns OP, our chaplain, and Fr Michael Dyer, a good friend of our community. It was a wonderful day of celebration. If you would like to watch the livestream, [here is the link](#).

At the beginning of the Mass, Sr Mary welcomed all of us. At the end of the Mass, Sr Petra gave an update on the property work that has been done and what still needs to be done. Following the Mass, we had a wonderful lunch together in the guestry. Here are some photos from the day.



Property Maintenance Work update given at Thanksgiving Mass

Dear friends,

Thank you for being here with us for this Thanksgiving Mass. My name is Petra. I am the Property Maintenance Coordinator here at The Abbey. I would like to share a little bit of what you have enabled us to do for the last 1.5 years.

In June 2024, we started our Fundraising Appeal and opened a form on our website for donations. Since then, we have received a lot of generosity and support. It is the kind generosity and support from all of you here as well as those who are attending this Mass online through our live streaming. Not only have we received financial donations, but also the gift of time and expertise, friendship and volunteers. Your kindness and support have enabled us to attend to two major maintenance projects that needed to be done. From August to October 2024, the first stage of roof replacement work took place - The roof over our workplaces. Before the work was done, when it rained outside, it rained inside too! We became very skilled at placing buckets and towels to collect as much of the water as possible. Work continued around the leaks. Now every time it rains, we give thanks for the roof over our heads, and we ask God's blessing for all of you.

In 2025, from June to September, the huge work was to fix the contour of the ground around The Abbey. This Abbey was built in 1989. Over time, the soil outside the building has built up. This caused the ground outside to be higher than the damp course of the building. Thus, when it rained, the water flowed into the building causing the slate floor to disintegrate and wooden frames and doors to rot. There were some locations that always got flooded when it rained. The work done in 2025 was to address the drainage issue. Now water can flow away from the building instead of into the building. We were also able to address another section of the leaking roof over the guestry and the refectory verandah. It was a delight when it rained for the first time to see that no water came into the building and the guestry and refectory verandah ceilings were dry.



All of this was possible thanks to your kind donations and support for us.

This year, we plan to do the next section of the roof replacement which covers our formation area. This area, too, urgently needs to be addressed. Some of the ceilings and walls have gone mouldy due to the leaks. Other than this, there are still other areas of the property that need significant maintenance and/or repair due to wear and tear or being worn by age. We continue to give thanks to God and ask God for his blessings upon you, our friends, who have enabled us to successfully undertake and complete the first important steps required to ensure that we keep our building and property as a safe haven of peace and prayer.

We pray for your ongoing support and warmly invite you to [click here to make a donation to our building fund.](#)

Sr Petra

The death of Sr Ancilla Leech osb

It was with great sadness we announced the death of our dear sister, Ancilla, on the morning of March 16.

In February this year she was diagnosed with stomach cancer and given one – two years. However, during the last two weeks the cancer moved to her bowel and her time with us changed to 3 – 10 days. She began palliative care in Wollongong hospital and then came home so that we could look after her, with the help of the palliative care nurses and doctors. Her death came as a shock to us as we had hoped to have her with us for a longer time.



Ancilla's acceptance and peace in times of suffering throughout her whole life stayed with her in those last days. She saw herself as "dissolving into something bigger – fast. I'm stretching to the ends of the cosmos and that's exciting. My bucket is full. I've done everything I need to do. I am at peace. God is good". She was ready in every way for this stage of her new life into God.

Sr Ancilla was a beautiful sister, an inspired and creative artist, a woman of presence and prayer, a lover of all things Christ and the Cosmos and a devoted and loving friend. We miss her terribly.

Concert at the Abbey

St Jude's Chamber Choir from Bowral will be having a concert at Jamberoo Abbey on Sunday, April 19 to raise funds for the Abbey's building maintenance effort.

Spend a lovely afternoon listening to magnificent music brought by the beautiful voices of St Jude's Chamber Choir, under Allan Beavis as the choir director and Brett McKern as the organist, resounding in the acoustics of the Abbey church.

The concert will take place at 2pm and afterwards, we invite you to have an afternoon tea with us at the Abbey Guestry.

For more information, and to register on our website, click [here](#).

Abbey Retreats

After a very pleasing start to 2026 with excellent attendance at our first retreats for 2026 we are offering three retreats in June and July. Click [here](#) to register.

June Retreat

Praying Icons with Julian of Norwich - (Day Retreat) 27 Jun 2026

Join us for a contemplative day exploring the rich intersection of iconography and Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love.

Presenter: Sr Julian Grigor

[\(More information & Registration\)](#)

July Retreats

Welcoming Sister Death - (Cottage Weekend Retreat) 10-12 Jul 2026

We tend to forget or ignore the fact that one day we will die, preferring instead to focus on living our life as best we can now. But what if we were to take the plunge and turn to face the reality of our death?

Presenter: Sr Antonia Curtis

[\(More information & Registration\)](#)

The Cloud of Unknowing: Foundation of Centering Prayer - (Cottage Weekend Retreat) 17-19 Jul 2026

Drawing from the wisdom of the 14th-century mystical classic, this retreat explores The Cloud of Unknowing and its profound influence on the practice of Centering Prayer.

Presenter: Sr Magdalen Mather

[\(More information & Registration\)](#)

PRIVATE RETREATS

The Abbey is also available for private retreats and quiet reflection time. Come for a day, or a few days to refresh, nourish and rest your soul in the peace and silence of our cottages, and participation in the Liturgy of the Hours, prayed by the Sisters. Visit our website to view our retreat cottages and find information regarding a retreat here: <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/cottages/>

GROUP BOOKINGS

The retreat cottages may also be booked for small groups. Parish or prayer groups, spiritual reading groups, staff reflection days, Christian meditation and Centering prayer groups have all had experience of our Jamberoo hospitality. We can host you for a day – or for a few days depending on your needs. <https://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats/cottages/>

News from the Craft department

The lead-up to Easter was paschal candle time in The Abbey's Craft department. Each year we make and decorate somewhere between 450 and 500 paschal candles for parishes across our country. So, it is a busy time and a good income earning time.



This is what the craft packing room shelves looked like to begin the day (left).



As you can see some of our candles are huge. Lots of exercise in weightlifting!

Meet Abbey the joey wallaby



On January 12, I came upon a dead wallaby on a scary corner of the Jamberoo Mountain Road. It was an extreme heatwave day, and her little one had pushed its head out of the pouch.

This happened just as I came to that point in the road. I thought at first, I had imagined it but decided to stop and check. It was probably an act of madness on a busy road but it was worth it.

Here she is, Abbey, at this early stage (left) called a pinky. So precious. Now in the care of Courtney, a WIRES volunteer, Abbey has some fur (right) and I hear is a hungry little thing.



We told her she is welcome back at the Abbey when she grows up.

Sr Mechtild.



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