

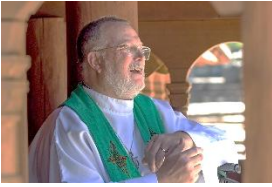
May 2026



Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

The Almanac

HAPPY 
MOTHER'S
DAY! 



PIC's Pickings

Pentecost will be observed on 24 May this year and entirely coincidentally, so will National Escargot Day.



Interesting fact: Snails do not have a backbone, and they usually withdraw into their shells whenever they are threatened.

Some Christians also do not have a backbone and when threatened with an opportunity to share their faith with someone or even just invite them to church they withdraw into their shells.

But on Pentecost Peter and the other disciples, supercharged by the Holy Spirit (see the snail's tattoo), came out of their shells. "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:3,4).

No one is expecting that on 24 May everyone will burst out of church with what seems to be tongues of fire and speaking other languages (although it would make for a memorable Sunday).

But maybe, just maybe, the Holy Spirit will warm us enough to share Jesus with someone who needs to hear about Him.

In Christ, *Father Richard*

Pentecost – Sunday 24 May

**"The Spirit of Jesus in me greets the Spirit of Jesus in you,
and brings us together in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."**

On Sunday, 24 May we will celebrate Pentecost, the "Birthday of the Church."

Service will begin with a "Prayer Walk" shared with First Presbyterian, followed by Holy Eucharist in our sanctuary.

There will be red/orange/yellow pinwheels, and everyone is asked to wear red or orange or yellow clothing. (Fr. Richard has a special bright red shirt for the day.)

Details will come a bright red envelope later this month.

FROM THE TREASURER'S VAULT

Treasurer's Report - March 31, 2026



GENERAL FUND

Checking Balance as of

- Checking Balance as of February 28, 2026: \$13,443.25

- TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSES:

Offerings: \$ 3,718.18

Other Income: \$16,001.03

TOTAL Income: \$19,719.21

TOTAL Expenses \$20,296.20

- Checking Balance as of March 31, 2026: \$14,514.55

- Average attendance for 5 Sundays in March = 32

March Weekly Offering

- March 1, 2026
 - Attendance: 33 & Online Views
 - Pledge: \$1,451.00
 - Plate: \$ 341.77
- March 8, 2026
 - Attendance: 29 & Online Views
 - Pledge: \$503.00
 - Plate: \$ 50.00
- March 15, 2026
 - Attendance: 40 & Online Views
 - Pledge: \$549.00
 - Plate: \$134.41
- March 22, 2026
 - Attendance: 33 & Online Views
 - Pledge: \$ 32.00
 - Plate: \$101.00
- March 29, 2026
 - Attendance: 26 & Online Views
 - Pledge: \$381.00
 - Plate: \$281.77

Blessed is the Mother

Who can hold onto her children while letting them go;
Who puts a tranquil home ahead of an immaculate house;
Who knows a kid act will be remembered longer than any easy word;
Who really believes that prayer changes things;
Whose faith in the future sweetens the present;
Whose Bible never needs dusting;
Whose sense of humor is alive and well.

- Reformation Lutheran Church, Lancaster, SC 05/06/1997 -

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Sts Phillip & James, Apostle</i>	2
					<i>Straight Shooters NA 8pm</i>	
3 Worship Service 9:00 am	4 <i>Monday Night Blues NA 7:30</i>	5 <i>Bilingual Mass 8:30AM</i> Food Pantry 9-11 AM <i>Gift of Dance 5pm</i>	6 <i>Cub Scout meeting 5pm</i> <i>Scout Troop 308 meeting 6:00pm</i>	7	8 <i>Straight Shooters NA 8pm</i>	9
10 Worship Service 9:00 am <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	11 <i>Monday Night Blues NA 7:30</i>	12 <i>Gift of Dance 5pm</i>	13 <i>Cub Scout meeting 5pm</i> <i>Scout Troop 308 meeting 6:00pm</i>	14 <i>Ascension Day</i>	15 <i>Straight Shooters NA 8pm</i>	16
17 Worship Service 9:00 am <i>Vestry Mtg</i>	18 <i>Monday Night Blues NA 7:30</i>	19 <i>Bilingual Mass 8:30AM</i> Food Pantry 9-11 AM <i>Gift of Dance 5pm</i>	20 <i>Cub Scout meeting 5pm</i> <i>Scout Troop 308 meeting 6:00pm</i>	21 <i>San Diego Widows & Widowers Group 11:30-3pm</i>	22 <i>Straight Shooters NA 8pm</i>	23
24 Worship Service 9:00 am <i>Pentecost</i>	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Monday Night Blues NA 7:30</i>	26 <i>Gift of Dance 5pm</i>	27 <i>Cub Scout meeting 5pm</i> <i>Scout Troop 308 meeting 6:00pm</i>	28	29 <i>Straight Shooters NA 8pm</i>	30
<u>31</u> Worship Service 9:00 am <i>Trinity Sunday</i>						





Sunday School News
By Caroline Mahon-Hurd



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Hello Sunday School families,
Sunday School starts **each Sunday at 9:00 am.**
Children who attend Sunday School can join their families for communion during the church service.

We will not be having Sunday School on the **1st Sunday of each month. Please join us for the regular morning worship service on those days.**

Blessings, Caroline Mahon-Hurd

Sunday School email: stalbansundayschool@gmail.com

Please use this email with any questions about Sunday School, or special needs attendance.

Fr Richard giving the Children's Sermon on Easter Sunday, April 5



Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 2026!



What Is Happening with Mary?



As part of Mary's diaconal formation, she is required to have two semesters of internship. This cannot be in her home congregation. Mary will be doing her internship at St. Luke's Episcopal in San Diego where The Revs. Colin & Laurel Mathewson are co-rectors.

Mary will begin her internship on 01 May and conclude in December. She will serve there in a variety of capacities, including most Sundays.

With the agreement of Bishop Susan and the Mathewsons, Mary will be with us Tuesdays for the bilingual service & food distribution and on third Sundays.

Please keep Mary in your prayers during this important time of formation.

Thank you Archdeacon Cindy

After four eventful years of service as Archdeacon of the Diocese of San Diego, The Rev. Cindy Campos has discerned that it is time for her to return to diaconal ministry as a parish deacon. We greatly appreciate Archdeacon Cindy's dedicated work in this important role.

Cindy was ordained as a vocational deacon in September 2020, in a masked Covid-era service in the outdoor courtyard of the Church Center in Ocean Beach. That ordination service proved to be a symbol of the ways Cindy would minister as a deacon and help overcome barriers and transform our diocese. She served as parish deacon at St. Bart's in Poway, her sponsoring parish, and then at St. Andrew's Lake Elsinore and St. Dunstan's San Diego. She was named archdeacon in 2022, and in that role, she has truly helped develop the ministry of service to the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely (the BCP description of diaconal ministry, p. 543).

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Cindy has recruited and mentored many new deacons and deacon candidates during her time as archdeacon. **Including our Mary Zori!** She has also spearheaded important service initiatives, including “Beanie Bundles” (warm hats, gloves, and socks provided to migrant farm workers), and the FAITH accompaniment ministry for migrants attending hearings at the federal courthouse. She has served as chaplain to retired clergy and provided pastoral care to many. She has organized and led deacons’ retreats and brought the deacons together in community to support one another. She has provided teaching and mentoring to deacons in training at the West Coast Collaborative. She has been a valued and appreciated colleague on the diocesan staff.

Cindy’s time as archdeacon will conclude as of May 31, and she will be assigned to Good Samaritan San Diego as a parish deacon. We offer prayers of gratitude for all Cindy has brought to our diocese and many of our congregations, and we pray for her renewed diaconal ministry at Good Sam. (edited from article by Bishop Susan Brown Snook)

SAVE THE DATE: 21 June is St. Alban’s Day

The custom of having a patron saint can be traced to the practice of building churches over the tombs of martyrs. Patron saints may be chosen for a variety of reasons. For example, a church that was founded on a saint's day might have that saint as patron.

The feast of a church's patron or title may be observed on or transferred to a Sunday, taking precedence over the usual Sunday observance in the calendar of the church year (excerpted from *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*).

Our patronal saint is St. Alban, first martyr of England.

According to the historian Bede, St. Alban served in the Roman army and was converted to Christianity by a fugitive priest whom he sheltered and with whom he exchanged clothes, so that he was martyred in the priest’s place (www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Alban).

We will celebrate St. Alban on 21 June. We will be dedicating a cover for our Arabic Gospel Book and a new icon of St. Alban. There will be a potluck following.

Episcopal Communicators: The Ministry Beneath the Work by Chris Tumilty

There are some weeks that feel larger once they are over. You move through them in real time—checking schedules, welcoming guests, solving problems, teaching classes, finding coffee, making introductions, hoping microphones work—and only afterward do you realize something meaningful happened. That is how I felt after the Episcopal Communicators Conference in San Diego.

Communicators from across the country (and even a couple from Europe) came to San Diego to learn about writing, photography, video, AI, strategy, formation, leadership, storytelling, and more. But what many of us discovered was deeper than professional development. Together, we were reminded how deep the ministry of communications truly goes.

The week began at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, where about 150 communicators were welcomed for the opening Eucharist led by Bishop Susan Brown Snook. It was a perfect beginning. Before workshops, before panels, before awards, before scanning QR codes and karaoke sessions, we were gathered as a community of Christians in worship.

In her sermon, Bishop Susan named what many of us already feel: a tangible weight. Today, we live in a world where grief seems louder than joy. She said, “These days, reading the news of our world feels like one bell tolling after another.” But despair does not have the final word, “I believe with all my heart that our Episcopal Church has good news to share. The best news... That good news makes you agents of hope in a time of despair... And hope is the message of Easter.”

In a communications role, it is easy to forget about *hope* in our work. We spend our time buried in headlines, crises, deadlines, corrections, and urgent requests. It is easy to feel that our work is simply tactical: send the email, fix the typo, crop the image, rewrite the headline, update the website, post the announcement. But Bishop Susan reminded us that communication in the Church is not transactional. It is ministry.

She reframed communication as a sacred movement from information to transformation. On the road to Emmaus, the travelers had already heard the news, but news alone had not changed them. They knew the facts, yet they were still walking in grief until Christ met them, opened the story, and set their hearts burning. Communicators are called to help people recognize Christ already walking beside them.

The next morning, The Rev. Lauren Winner, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School and the vicar of St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina, delivered the first keynote and gave us one of the most memorable ideas of the conference: the newsletter is a new “Genre of the Church.” It is the new epistle. She helped us imagine Paul writing to the Christians scattered across the Mediterranean, sending letters of guidance, and connecting it to how I quietly labor over newsletters that feel mundane and often invisible—wondering if anyone is listening.

But Rev. Winner reframed the newsletter as a descendant of the letters that sustained the early Church. A way of showing the road to Christ.

And here in San Diego, we take the path to Christ seriously. The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego did not just host this conference; we helped lead it. Of 24 workshops and pre-conference offerings, and two keynotes, 11 were led by people connected to the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. This makes me incredibly proud of my diocese. I'm moved that people came to San Diego and encountered not only our city, but also our wisdom, our creativity, our faithfulness, our care-filled witness, and our lived ministry. They saw that the Church here is real and doing the work of Christ in our region.

Communicators from across the globe heard about affordable housing rising from church land. They heard about accompaniment at court. They learned about hospitality and care for women and children across the border. They experienced a church plant in Ocean Beach that values belonging and beauty. They engaged leaders who care deeply about formation, ethics, systems, story, and evangelism. They saw the face of Jesus here.

In short, we showed what EDSD is about—Courageous Love.

For me, personally, the week carried another layer of gratitude. At the Polly Bond Awards—held during a seated dinner in the nave of the Cathedral, the Episcopal Communicators' version of the Academy Awards—I received two recognitions: an Honorable Mention for Long Form Video and an Award of Merit for Commentary/Reflection.

Both mean a great deal to me. But the writing award was deeper.

To be recognized by a room full of peers who are storytellers, writers, editors, and people who spend their lives trying to find the right word, the honest phrase, the sentence that opens a heart, felt profoundly affirming. I often feel that communications work is invisible, but writing is incredibly personal. Writing carries judgment, care, theology, and craft. It asks something of the soul.

To receive an Award of Merit for Best Reflection felt like confirmation that my care for this work matters.

In fact, that was the thread running through the whole conference: care matters. Care in the words we choose and the tone we set; in the systems we build; in our designs, where beauty, clarity, and accessibility help people feel welcomed. Care in how we invite people into community and deeper faith, and how we sustain the people doing this work, remembering that communicators are not machines but human beings called to serve with their whole selves.



St Alban's Leadership

Staff

Father Richard Vevia ~ Priest in Charge

619-444-8212, revdrvevia@gmail.com

Office hours: Tues, Thurs @ 9am-12pm
or in case of emergency: 619-318-2993

Mary Zori ~ Postulant

Denise Cote ~ Assistant to PIC/Office
Manager; 619-444-8212
dcote@stalbanschurch.info

Office hours: Tues - Thurs, 9am-1pm

Caroline Mahon-Hurd ~ Sunday School
Dir

Lily Airy ~ Audio Visual Technician

Victoria Mayor ~ Social Media Director

Judy Brown ~ Treasurer

Lisa Hilliker ~ Altar Guild

Wardens & Vestry

Mike Park ~ Senior Warden

Jessica & Paul Manning ~ Junior Wardens

Jacquie Swerdfeger ~ Secretary

Judy Brown ~ Treasurer

Mary Zori ~ Vestry Member

Laurie Ibanez ~ Vestry Member

Eileen McMillen ~ Vestry Member

Dennis Gatlin ~ Vestry Member

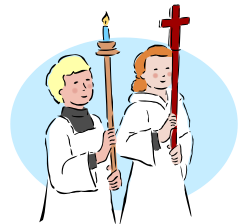
Worship & Learn With Us:

Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 am in the St Alban's Sanctuary. OR watch live streamed
on the St Alban's Facebook page.

Tuesday Bilingual Mass (English & Arabic), with

Eucharist is at 8:30 am on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in the St. Alban's Sanctuary. This service is
available only in person. All are welcome.





490 Farragut Circle

El Cajon, CA 92020

Phone: 619-444-8212

St. ALBAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Email: generalbusiness@stalbanschurch.info

