

eNewsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada

Issue # 30

June 17, 2009

ALBAN - First Martyr of Britain

Alban was the earliest Christian in Britain who is known by name and, according to tradition, the first British martyr. As a soldier, he gave shelter to a Christian priest and was converted by him. When officers came to his house looking for the priest, Alban dressed in the priest's clothing and gave himself up. Alban was tortured and martyred in place of the priest. His last words at the trial in which he was condemned (c. 303) were, "My parents named me Alban, and I worship and adore the living and true God, who created all things. The site of Alban's martyrdom soon became a shrine. The great Norman abbey church, begun in 1077, now serves as the cathedral of the Diocese of St. Alban's, established in 1877. It is the second longest church in England, and it is built higher than any other English cathedral. In the chapel east of the choir and high Altar, there are the remains of the 14th century marble shrine of St. Alban.

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Alban triumphed over suffering and was faithful even to death: Grant us, who now remember him in thanksgiving, to be so faithful in our witness to you in this world, that we may receive with him the crown of life; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen

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Calendar of Events

If you would like to see your event listed here, please email [Clelia](#). If you would like to see your event listed in the [diocesan calendar](#), please email [Barbara](#).

SAVE THE DATES

Jun 21, ROCK INTO SUMMER, ALL AGES ROCK CONCERT, CO-PRODUCED BY AIILOVE RECORDS,
7:00 PM, Grace in the Desert, Las Vegas

Jun 21-25, THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS (UBE), 41st Annual Meeting and Conference, Hilton Hotel, Silver Spring, Washington, D.C. [Online registration](#)

Jun 27, VICTORIA RILEY'S ORDINATION, 7:00 PM, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Carson City.

Jun 27, CHURCH GARAGE SALE, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, St. Stephen's, Reno.

Jun 18-22, 2009 ASIAMERICAN MINISTRIES CONSULTATION, DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center, Florida. [For More Information](#)

Jul 14, A TOUR OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, HOSTED BY KATHLEEN HALLAMORE, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, Church on the River, Reno. For information about this event and others that will be sponsored by the church during July's Artown events, call Meg Tarble (775) 827-2516

Jun 28, PHIL FLOWERS, VEGAS TOP MALE R&B ARTIST, 7:00 PM, Grace in the Desert, Las Vegas

Jul 26, CHURCH PICNIC AT WHITAKER PARK following the 9:30 AM service, St. Stephen's, Reno.

Oct 3, SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY OF THE EUCHARIST AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS: A Roving Workshop by Bishop Dan, St. Paul's Church, Elko. No Charge. [For Additional Information](#)

Oct 22 - 25, DIOCESAN CONVENTION: I Love To Tell The Story; Keynote Speaker: Fr. Jake aka Fr. Terry Martin. Harvey's Resort & Casino, Lake Tahoe Area. [For Reservations](#)

 Forward to a Friend

Christian Iconography



Christian art began about two centuries after Christ's death and resurrection by borrowing motifs from Roman Imperial imagery, classical Greek and Roman religion, and popular art. In Late Antiquity (c 300-600 C.E.), iconography began to be standardised, and to relate more closely to Biblical texts.

The growth of Christian iconography is rich and varied. Beginning with the catacomb frescoes

in the early centuries of the Christian era, Christian iconography deals with the perils faced by the human soul on earth as it journeys toward eternal salvation. Figures from the Old Testament, episodes from the life and passion of Jesus, scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary, scenes from the lives of the saints, and symbolic scenes of ultimate beatitude (e.g., the Coronation of the Virgin), are all designed with the same purpose in mind; to repeat in many forms, and embed in every mind, the moral aims and fundamental dogmas of the Christian religion.

A long series of evolutionary stages can be seen in the representation of a given person or scene from the art of the catacombs to the art and architecture of the Gothic cathedrals. By the Middle Ages iconography had evolved into a kind of sacred writing whose system of how characters were represented, (i.e., the iconography), had to be learned by every artist. Iconography during this period was also governed by a kind of sacred mathematics, in which position, grouping, symmetry, and number were of utmost importance, and were themselves an integral part of the iconography.

From earliest times Christian iconography has been a symbolic code, showing the faithful one thing and inviting them to see in it the figure of another. Some examples are: the dove, which figures the Holy Spirit; the fish, symbol of Christ, from the Greek ichthus, an anagram for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior; the monkey or reptile as symbol of evil; and the bowl or pitcher of water and the vase of lilies that signify the Virgin's purity in the Annunciation scene. In Christian art, form becomes the vehicle of spiritual meaning. The expression and reading of this meaning is the essence of Christian iconography.

News Briefs



Bishop Dan's Blog - "Why are readers from Hong Kong, Canada, California, and Virginia commenting on Bishop Dan's blog? Check it out. <http://www.bishopdansblog.blogspot.com>

EPISCOPAL RECOVERY MINISTRIES IN NEVADA is in formation and will have its first meeting at Diocesan Convention in October. If you would like to participate in this ministry, or have questions, please contact Kathie Knutson Meier at knutenote@cox.net (702-684-6444 or 253-250-9531), or have a look at the home page <http://www.episcopalrecoveryministries.org>

DIOCESAN CONVENTION, Harvey's, South Lake Tahoe - Thursday, Oct. 22 - Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009.
Theme: I Love to Tell the Story. Keynote Speaker: Fr. Jake, aka Fr. Terry Martin. When you book your room online there is NO FEE. [Online Booking](#)



A Bus Trip to Lake Tahoe for the Diocesan Convention in October will be sponsored by St. Matthew's, Las

Vegas. For information, or to make a reservation, contact Thelma Northrup at (702)-889-3929; or email stmatts@embarqmail.com

St. Christopher's, Boulder City needs a new bell to announce services--- Please spread the word. If anyone has access to a new or gently used bell, please call Patty Jacobson at 702-293-7454.

St. Stephen's, Reno seeks an energetic part-time priest to provide oversight for parish development and mission outreach. For more details, or to send an application: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2400 West 7th St., Reno, NV 89503 - (775) 747-7727 (fax).

Episcopal Church Leaders give Webcast Preview of General Convention - [View the Webcast](#)

A Benedictine Experience - July 5-12, 2009 - Experience the quiet, discipline, and community of a contemplative retreat sponsored by the Friends of St. Benedict and the Episcopal Diocese of California. The retreat will take place at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, California, Sunday July 5-Sunday, July 12. For detailed information on registration call 202-363-8061, or 415-381-3235

The Bishop Wes Frensdorff School of Christian Formation: A new Education Venture of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada. The school's mission is *To bring together all Nevada Episcopalians for Christian formation, empowering each other to live deeply into our Baptismal Covenant in our relationships, service in daily life, and witness to the world.* To learn more [Contact](#).

"Hot Summerlin Nights" - A fundraiser for Artists and the Discretionary Fund. 7:00 PM, Sunday June 7, 14, 21,& 28. Grace in the Desert, Las Vegas.

The Beauty of God's Holiness: A Liturgical Art Exhibit at General Convention, Presented by the National Altar Guild. [For Further Information](#)

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Contact Information

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775.253.5579 (cell phone: no solicitors, please)

About Us

The Episcopal Diocese of Nevada embraces 6,000 members from communities throughout Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona in 34 congregations and 2 new faith communities. Our electronic newsletter service and print journal, The Desert Spirit, are provided to parishes and members free of charge.

Persons interested in the ministry of communications may contact [Barbara](#), [Hallie](#), or [Karl](#) to get involved.

Persons wishing to opt-out and not receive the electronic newsletter can simply unsubscribe by selecting the link at the end of this newsletter.

Changes to snail mail addresses for The Desert Spirit must be sent to the [Editor](#).

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