

# The Celtic Courier

May 2025

## From the Rector

Over these last two months, I have been reflecting on the first two parts of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (*Inferno* and *Purgatorio*). It is only fair that my Easter reflection draw upon the third part, *Paradiso*, where drawn up as far as he can be taken by Virgil, through hell and purgatory, Dante is guided by Beatrice—a woman he loved in life, and whose own grace and virtue led Dante to the ultimate source of all grace and virtue—through heaven.

On Easter morning, the stone is rolled away—not only from Christ's tomb, but from our hearts as well. In Dante's *Paradiso*, as he ascends through the celestial spheres, he draws closer and closer to the divine light, until he beholds the mystery at the heart of all things: a Love so radiant it holds the cosmos in motion.

Easter is the moment that Love breaks through death.

Dante's journey is not merely a vision of heaven, but a return to the source. At the summit of his pilgrimage, he sees in God "a love that moves the sun and the other stars." This is the truth Easter reveals. Resurrection is not only the triumph of Christ over death—it is the re-centering of creation around divine Love.

In *Paradiso*, light is a constant image: brighter, purer, overwhelming. But that light does not blind—it reveals. Beatrice says that the blessed see more clearly because they are consumed not by themselves, but by God's joy. They are, in the fullest sense, resurrected. Not only alive, but truly *themselves*—healed, whole, and illuminated by grace.

So, too, Easter invites us into this transformation.

We are not meant to merely admire the resurrection as something past, or far off. We are meant to ascend into it. Christ's rising is the opening of a path through death—not an escape from the world, but the transfiguration of it. As Dante is drawn upward by beauty and truth, so we are drawn by the light of Easter, invited to "see again the stars"—not only in heaven, but in the hearts of the risen.

Let us live, then, as Easter people—not only in song and feast, but in vision. Let us see beyond the grave, and into glory. As Dante shows, the highest joy is not merely survival, but union with the source of all: the Love that, even now, holds us, lifts us, and leads us home.

Faithfully yours,  
*Fr. Michael*

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson, Rector

Francina Anderson, Director of Family Ministries

Brett Hanley, Director of Music

## Dates to Remember



- ✓ **Project Hope Food Pantry**, 5:00-6:00 p.m.,  
*Thursday, May 1 / 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m.,  
Thursdays, May 8 and 22*
- ✓ **World Labyrinth Day**, *Saturday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.*
- ✓ **Vestry Meeting**, 11:45 a.m., *Sunday, May 4 and May 18*
- ✓ **Youth Group Lunch & Bible Study**, 11:30 a.m.,  
*Sunday, May 4 and 18*
- ✓ **Morning Prayer**, 9:00 a.m., *Mondays and Wednesdays  
(except May 26)*
- ✓ **Reading Group Zoom**, 7:00 p.m., *Tuesday, May 20*
- ✓ **Thursday Eucharist**, 10:00 a.m., *Thursdays, May 8,  
15, 22, 29*
- ✓ **Three Congregations Taizé at Mount Cross**,  
7:00 p.m., *Friday, May 9*
- ✓ **Mother's Day**, *Sunday, May 11*
- ✓ **Episcopal Clergy Conference**, Monday-  
Wednesday, May 12-14
- ✓ **Health Ministry Fundraiser**, 3:00 p.m., *Saturday,  
May 17*
- ✓ **Adult Forum**, 11:30 a.m., *Sunday, May 25*
- ✓ **Memorial Day Holiday/Parish Office Closed**,  
*Monday, May 26*
- ✓ **Pub Theology at Institution Ale**, 7:00 p.m.,  
*Tuesday, May 27*
- ✓ **Lunch Bunch**, 12:00 noon, *Wednesday, May 28*
- ✓ **Ascension Day**, *Thursday, May 29*
- ✓ **Fr. Michael's Institution as Rector and  
Confirmation of Jenna Berariu**, Time TBD,  
*Saturday, May 31*

### **Youth Group News—Calling All Middle School and High School Students!**

Youth Ministry: Middle and High School students are invited for lunch, games, and Bible Study. Our upcoming meetings are **Sundays, May 4 and 18**, from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Any parishioners who are interested in cooking or donating for the youth lunch will find sign-ups in the narthex.



**The deadline for articles for  
the June *Celtic Courier* is  
May 15.**

## **May Birthdays**

<b>Caitlyn Wheat</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Frances Cogswell</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Bob Waite</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>David Gardner</b>	<b>27</b>



Fr. Michael Anderson will be away  
May 12-14, attending the Clergy  
Conference for the Episcopal  
Diocese of Los Angeles.



The **parish office** will be  
closed on **Memorial Day**,  
**Monday, May 26.**

**Rector:** Our rector is the Rev. Dr. Michael  
Anderson. His email address is:  
[michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com](mailto:michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com).



“There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it’s going to be a butterfly.”  
—Buckminster Fuller  
(from *ChurchArt.com*)

THE CELTIC COURIER  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
ST. COLUMBA’S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
1251 Las Posas Road  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
ISSUE 5

### From the Treasurer

March, for the month and year-to-date, we are behind due to a quarterly insurance payment. Our income is about where expected; we just need to start fundraising to meet our goal of \$10,000 for the year. All of our expenses are what we budgeted. We’re projected to need to use about \$19,000 of the \$100,000 we have in Reserves this year. We have plenty of funds in the bank so things are not urgent.

You are all amazingly generous. The amount pledged for 2025 is \$243,000 and people are paying their pledges. That is an increase of over \$30,000 from 2024’s pledged amount! So many people increased their pledges and many of our new parishioners began pledging for the first time. We are truly blessed!

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is still busy. The termite tenting was delayed due to the weather, and it has been scheduled for June to meet the Children’s Learning Center’s needs. The septic tank at the rectory was pumped out again and inspected; further work might be required on it. The Committee is working on other projects that need to be done. Thus far, all the funds for these projects are coming from Designated Funds, not the budget that we use to pay salaries and normal operating expenses.

Part of these Designated Funds are grants from the Endowment Fund that can be spent on ministries or Buildings & Grounds projects. We still have about \$30,000 from the 2023/2024 grant of \$59,000 to spend on repairs and improvements. The tenting should cost about \$20,000. And the Endowment can provide another grant of 3-5% per year (equating to \$30,000 - \$50,000) for further work. This is a good start to pay for what needs to be done. We are so blessed to have our Endowment Fund and give thanks for everyone who has donated to it!

We do have some more expensive repairs coming up though, so we may be asking for extra funds for those specific projects, like the parking lot repaving. Now that the Easter celebrations are completed, the Committee will be getting back to work on planning.

We continue to bless each of you as we count your pledge on Sundays or receive it via PayPal. We’re doing this together to maintain our church family, grow it to spread God’s love, and continue the work that God intends for us to do.

If anyone would like to join us on the Budget & Finance Committee or see what we’re doing in more detail, you are more than welcome. We can truly use more help, thoughts, and ideas. We want to be transparent with expenses and income. If you would like to see the most recent Financial Report, please just ask. We don’t take anyone and their contributions for granted. Thank you, all!

Gail Hill, Treasurer

On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee

(Bev Pearson, Maria Fernandez, Diane Off, Sarah Monroe-Allen)



### **LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch will be **Wednesday, May 28**. Come and enjoy lunch and fellowship, hosted by Michele Hauser, Diane Off, Beanie MacLaurie, and Jarrel Fuller, at **Noon** in the parish hall. **Sign up** on the bulletin board in the narthex.



You are cordially invited to Fr Michael's Institution as Rector of St Columba's  
as well as the Confirmation of our own Jenna Berariu.

When: Saturday, May 31, Time—TBD

The service of the Institution has its roots in medieval England. In an institution Eucharistic service, the priest is presented by the Church Wardens to the Bishop to receive his approval, followed by a reading of the Bishop's Letter of Institution, conferring upon the priest certain privileges and responsibilities, and the placing of the key into the hands of the new Rector.

Representatives of the congregation and the diocese then present to the Rector various items as symbols of his ministry in the parish.

*From Fr Michael:*


I am very proud to be formally installed as rector of St. Columba's. I am grateful for the bishop's support of our ministry and the approval of our parishioners. Moreover, it is only fitting that we are combining the installation with Jenna's confirmation. This celebration will be a time in which we all will express our hopes and aspirations, and submit them to Almighty God for divine guidance and sanctification. I am so excited for the new life that God has begun in Jenna's heart. Stay tuned for the service time.


  **Y'all Ready for a Hoedown?**  


*Brought to you by St. Columba's Health Ministry—Where faith meets flannel!*

Dust off your boots and grab your hat—it's time for a rootin'-tootin' good time at our first ever **Church Hoedown!** Whether you can two-step like a pro or just want to enjoy some good grub and better company, we'd love to see ya there!

 **Date/Time:** Saturday, May 17

 **Location:** St. Columba's parish hall and patio

 Chili Cookoff—if you are interested in competing, contact Teri Helton,  
[teri@terihelton.com](mailto:teri@terihelton.com)

 Enjoy Line dancing, raffle prizes & desserts, games, eat some chili and vote for your favorite.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Beer, dessert, and raffle prizes can also be purchased.

Proceeds will go toward an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED)

**No horse required. Just come hungry and happy!**



## Poem of the Month:

### My Baptismal Birthday

by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

God's child in Christ adopted, — Christ my all, —  
What that earth boasts were not lost cheaply, rather  
Than forfeit that blest name, by which I call  
The Holy One, the Almighty God, my Father? —  
Father! in Christ we live, and Christ in Thee —  
Eternal Thou, and everlasting we.  
The heir of heaven, henceforth I fear not death:  
In Christ I live! in Christ I draw the breath  
Of the true life! — Let then earth, sea, and sky  
Make war against me! On my heart I show  
Their mighty master's seal. In vain they try  
To end my life, that can but end its woe. —  
Is that a death-bed where a Christian lies? —  
Yes! but not his — 'tis Death itself there dies.



The Chapel service and Spring Sing were absolutely the sweetest thing ever! Fr. Michael is wonderful with the children, and their enthusiasm was contagious. The first annual Spring Fest was also a huge success, and I'm sure will be followed by many more! If you don't already, I highly recommend that you follow the CLC on Instagram so that you can see all the wonderful pictures that Rebecca posts. They are sure to brighten even the gloomiest of days! Preparations are underway for Summer Camps which are already full, as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, which is always over the top thanks to our amazing parents, and of course our beloved director.

*Sarah Wigert for the CLC Board*



## St. Columba's Book Club

Looking to grow in faith and fellowship through great books? Join our **Church Reading Group**—a warm, welcoming space where we dive into inspiring reads and share meaningful conversations rooted in our Christian Walk.

Come as you are—no need to be a theologian, just bring your love of reading and open heart. Whether you're seeking spiritual growth, community, or just a peaceful evening, we'd love to have you.

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Initial Zoom meeting: **Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.**

**Contact Fr. Michael: [michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com](mailto:michael.anderson@stcolumbaca.com).**



## Three Congregations Taizé

If you're interested in a contemplative, meditative type of worship, the Three Congregations (Camarillo United Methodist, Mount Cross Lutheran, and St. Columba's Episcopal Churches) are offering in-person Taizé-style prayer, held in the intimate setting of the Mount Cross sanctuary (102 Camino Esplendido, 93010) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, at 7:00 p.m.—**Friday, May 9**, this month. Taizé is an international, ecumenical community in France, dedicated to peace and reconciliation, whose prayer includes meditative singing, scripture, silence, and spoken prayer.

**Pub Theology**—Our next **Pub Theology** is **Tuesday, May 27, at 7:00 p.m.** at **Institution Ale** (3841 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo). All are welcome for a pint and discussion. (Institution is family-friendly and alcohol-free drinks are also available.)

PUB THEOLOGY  
Beer, Conversation, and G

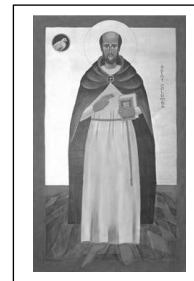


### **Celtic Christmas Faire – Save Books to Sell**

It's never too early to start setting aside books that you might like to pass on to fellow readers. We will once again be having a book sale to raise money. So, find a spot on a shelf or wherever, and tuck that book you just finished away. Thanks so very much!

### **Saint Columba Day**

Mark your calendars for our annual Saint Columba Day celebration with our 9:30 a.m. Eucharist, followed by a parish picnic and potluck—**Sunday, June 8.**



### **✿ Give Glory, Share Beauty ✿**

#### **Sponsor Flowers for the Lord's Altar**

Would you like to honor a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give thanks? Sponsoring the altar flowers is a meaningful and beautiful way to do just that.

Each bouquet offered at the Lord's table is a living prayer—lifting up our joys, our memories, and our gratitude before God.

Here's how you can participate:

- ✿ Find the flower chart on the door in the narthex and sign up next to your preferred Sunday.
- ✿ Fill out the form—Let us know who or what your flowers are honoring.
- ✿ Place your form and \$50 check (made out to *St. Columba's Altar Guild*) in the colored envelope provided and place in the collection plate.

Your gift adds beauty to our worship and meaning to our prayers. Thank you for helping us keep the altar blooming with love and reverence.



“What we have done and left undone” are familiar words said every Sunday during our church service.

The to-do list is always very long. The list, at times, is overwhelming. Look for a quiet place where you can review all the jobs and favors you have done. They are so important.





Keep searching for the best life you can live. May you experience the joy of many Easter blessings.

The Parish Nurses



# MAY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Our food distribution schedule this month is:  The 1st Thursday of the month, 5:00-6:00 p.m.;  the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month,  9:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m.  No distribution on the 5th Thursday.</p>						
<b>4 Easter 3C</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45 PH Youth Group 11:45 Ofc.	<b>5 Cinco de Mayo</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<b>6</b> Staff Meeting 10:00	<b>7</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 5:45-6:45 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<b>8</b> Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> CLC Chapel 11:15 Choir 6:00 	<b>9</b> <b>Three Congregations</b> <b>Taizé at Mount Cross</b> <b>7:00</b> 	<b>10</b> 
<b>11 Easter 4C/Mother's Day</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30	<b>12 Clergy Conference</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<b>13 Clergy Conference</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 Chapel	<b>14 Clergy Conference</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Craft Group 2:00 PH School Board 4:00 Women's AA 7:00 PH	<b>15 Courier Deadline</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> Choir 6:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17 Armed Forces Day</b> Health Ministry Chili Cookoff & Line Dancing Fundraiser 3:00 PH
<b>18 Easter 5C</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Vestry 11:45 PH Youth Group 11:45 Ofc. Boy Scouts 4:00 PH	<b>19</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<b>20</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 Reading Group Zoom 7:00	<b>21</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<b>22</b> Project Hope: 9:00-10:00, 5:00-6:00 PH <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> CLC Chapel 11:15 Choir 6:00 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 Easter 6C</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 9:30</b> Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 11:30	<b>26 Memorial Day</b> <b>Holiday/Ofc. Closed</b> Boy Scouts 6:00 PH	<b>27</b> Staff Meeting 10:00 Pub Theology at Institution Ale 7:00	<b>28</b> Morning Prayer 9:00 Chapel CLC Chapel 11:15 Lunch Bunch 12:00N PH Craft Group 2:00 PH Women's AA 7:00 PH	<b>29 Ascension Day</b> <b>Holy Eucharist 10:00</b> Choir 6:00	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Institution of the Rev. Dr. Michael P. Anderson as St. Columba's Rector and Confirmation of Jenna Berariu Time TBD

Visit us on the web!  
[www.stcolumbaca.com](http://www.stcolumbaca.com)

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit 49  
Oxnard, CA 93030

**ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

1251 Las Posas Road  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Phone: (805) 482-8831  
E-mail: [office.manager@stcolumbaca.com](mailto:office.manager@stcolumbaca.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

● **World Labyrinth Day at St. Columba's**  
*"Walk as One at 1" for Peace*



**When:** Saturday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. Columba's Labyrinth (behind the church)

Join us as we take part in a global moment of peace. On **World Labyrinth Day**, thousands of people around the world will walk labyrinths at 1:00 p.m. local time as a *moving meditation for peace and unity*. Be part of this sacred ripple.

Whether you walk the outdoor labyrinth or use a seated finger labyrinth, you're invited into this gentle, contemplative experience. All are welcome—bring a friend, bring your spirit, bring your hope for a more peaceful world.

Facilitated by: **Linda Devenstedt**

Let's walk together—step by step, heart to heart, for peace.