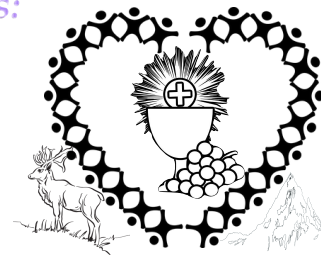


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



The Sunday Mass is broadcast via Zoom from Fernie & Sparwood (see below).

Dear All,

Welcome to the joyful season of Lent and to this special time of grace that will prepare us for the year ahead; for all the gifts that this year has in store for us and all the challenges it will put before us.

Ashes

Very many thanks to John and Sue in Fernie who made some wonderfully dark and fine ashes, which enabled me to trace some beautifully clear crosses on people's foreheads.

If you weren't able to get to church during the week for Ashes then I will be making them available after the weekend Masses. Quite how, I haven't worked out yet, because on Wednesday the combination of ashes and hand sanitiser made a really sticky mess which would have made it difficult to give out the Eucharist at the same time. But I will work on that and we will get it to you somehow.

(Right: Last year's palm leaves being burn to make this year's ashes.)



Lent is Here

I am extraordinarily grateful to my friend Fr. Mark from the Plymouth diocese who has arranged for his parishioners a series of ten Lenten talks, and then because of the wonders of the internet, we are also invited to be part of these talks.

Each talk will be about forty to forty-five minutes long and then there will be a chance for questions at the end. So we are hoping that each session will last about an hour.

Full details of all the talks and the Masses we will have with the talks are on a separate attachment which you might want to print off and keep for reference.

And not wishing to repeat what is on the separate flyer, but just to introduce these talks: Each talk will be at 12noon Mountain time (11am Pacific) and so this will be an evening event for the parishes in Britain. Thus if you see other participants drinking a glass or two of sherry, do remember that for them the sun will have gone over the yard-arm. (*Okay, that might be another very British expression that few in Canada understand.*) More likely you will see a few cups of tea being poured.

As I say, as Fr. Mark has organised all this, so I do know some of the speakers, but there are a number that I don't know. But be sure that there will be some very nice English – and perhaps even a Welsh – accents on display. (*And having read the titles for the talks, I really do hope that mine is not too shallow!*)

There are ten talks – two talks a week for the first five weeks of Lent which will take us up to Holy Week. In addition (and with a different Zoom link) each week there will also be a very simple but hopefully prayerful Mass. So all you have to do is mark off Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12noon for one hour. The Mass will be shorter than this, but you might just want to take the extra time as an opportunity to have some special private prayer during Lent. And if you are not good at filling extra time like this, there are lots of suggestions later in this e-mail.

As I say in the flyer, Lent is a gift. And as I said last week, we should see Lent as a time of renewal that is just like the renewal that our earth experiences at this point every year. Deep below the snow all the vegetation and much more is preparing itself to spring forth to greet the warmth of the sun and to bring forth its fruit. We too have this time to prepare ourselves to greet the warmth of God's love as shown to us at Easter in God's Son, and then to go forth into our world with the fruit of that love. And this year the fruit of the love of God is so needed in our world. So do see if you can join us or follow one of the Lent courses mentioned below.

Finally, each talk is independent of every other talk, so if you miss one it won't hinder you in joining in with the other talks. And I do understand that the talks are being recorded, but this is being done in Britain so we will have to see how we might get access to them.

Covid Restrictions

I have to tell you that very sadly this week Rocky Mountain Village changed its policy and it is now not allowing any clergy into the Village to minister to the residence except for those who are palliative. I have asked for clarification on this as I was told that this was a change made by Provincial Health, but I am struggling to find any reference to this change in the government website, yet I will be happy if I am proved wrong on this. I fear that it is much more



*Betty Schianni and myself on Ash Wednesday
2018 in Rocky Mountain Village.
This year I was not permitted to give Betty and
others their Ashes. This really upset me.*

likely that the new management has changed *its* view of how important spiritual care is for the residence of Rocky Mountain Village. I only mention this because with the Provincial Health Order closing our covid-safe churches, and now possibly a major care-home deeming the spiritual welfare of its residence as unimportant, we are in a difficult world! We need to shine Christ's light in our world so people look to us as an asset for the whole community – those who attend church and those who don't, even those who have faith and those who don't.

The health service in Canada, like in very many other parts of the world, was build on foundations laid by Nuns, religious and the whole church community who built the first hospitals. But where are we now? We have in Delta, Lower Mainland, a voluntarily run hospice that does not want to practice euthanasia and, as a consequence, is having all its assets ceased by the Provincial Health authority and is being taken over to ensure that euthanasia is practiced; we have a Provincial Health order closing churches that really pose no significant risk to the public compared with pub and bars that are allowed to be open; and possibly we now have the local care facility deciding that spiritual concerns do not have sufficient effect on the physical and mental health of residence to be included in their long term "essential care". I really, really hope that we, as a church, will hold our politicians feet to the fire and say that this is just not acceptable. I understand that our local MLA here in the East Kootenays is on our side, but really I feel that our aim should be much more than just trying to move a few politicians on a few decisions; rather we need to win over the hearts and minds of the wider community, from the management of care facilities to provincial health officials. Our goal should be nothing less than to work with the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Each one of us in our own face needs to show to the world the loving, compassionate and beautiful face of Christ. Now perhaps you see why we need Lent!

And Finally...

In an idle moment this last week I strayed onto YouTube and watched a couple of videos about Tesla electric cars – they are so nice. I just imagined on a Sunday afternoon after the last Mass getting into the driving seat and telling the car to drive me home! While Tesla haven't fully released their 'self-driving' facility yet, it is in the cars and just waiting for the law to catch up. And Thumper, bless him, then said, "I will drive you home!"



With thanks and a promise of prayers, *Fr. David @ Thumper*

Other Lenten Resources

This week my home diocese sent me a list of resources for Lent. I haven't had time to watch all of these, but I have dipped into a few. All the others are offered as "unseen", but one might take your eye or be available at a time you can participate.

Sycamore

I was *very* impressed with the one episode I saw of their last series. Sycamore are fairly new but have good solid content and superb quality production. This is a six week Lent course for practising Christians, or for people with some Christian background, who wish to renew their faith in the season of Lent.

<https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/lent-course/>

If you want to dip in and watch just one to see if you might like this series, try the one below. It is twenty-six minutes long with three opportunities to pause and reflect. This one is on 'Love' and I really thought it was thought provoking as well as being beautiful:

<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/session-10-the-meaning-of-love/>

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass.

This is a journey through scripture, hosted by Scott Hahn to uncover why all God's action, in creation and redemption, is ordered to the Mass.

<https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/parousia-the-bible-and-the-mass/>

Lenten Bible Course

I saw the Advent series from "Come and See" and *wasn't* particularly impressed. This is six weekly sessions to break open each Lenten Sunday Gospel before you go to Sunday Mass. Led by Mauro Iannecelli.

<https://comeandsee.org/lent.html>

'Knowing Jesus' from OnLinePrayer.net

If you want a page to read each day of Lent, this is simple, attractive and seems interesting. It even includes some optional music to play while you are reading.

<https://www.onlineprayer.net>

Youth2000

From Ireland, it invites you to follow the Sunday Gospels throughout Lent. I had a quick look at this Sunday's gospel reflection and a bit of it will be in my sermon! So it seemed good.

<https://youth2000.ie/gospel-reflection-first-sunday-of-lent/>

From the Plymouth Diocese, For Youth: Your Faith in Action

A series of talks 22nd February – 22nd March, 7:30–8:30pm (UK time, 12:30pm to 1:30pm Mountain) through zoom. For ages 13 plus. Organised by Saskia Hogbin our diocesan youth ministry events coordinator. The youth office encouraged me to get people to sign up. As this is from my diocese it will be much smaller so hopefully a bit more personal. For details you are asked to email: youth@predtr.org.uk and say that I sent you!

Link to Weekend Masses

To get the link to our 5pm Saturday evening Mass or our 9am Sunday morning Mass please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

info@holyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Link to Lenten Talks

To get the link to our Lenten talks and our Lenten weekday Masses please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

info@holyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Waiting Room: *Please note when you log on you will be put in a “waiting room”.
Hopefully as soon as we see you waiting we will let you in.
If there is a bit of a delay, please just wait;
the co-host or myself will be with you as quickly as we can.*