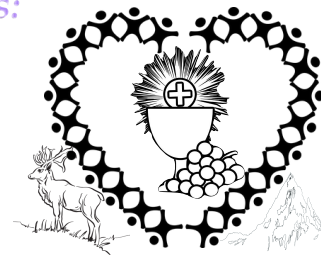


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

*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,**

A weekly e-mail with some thoughts and news, and a lot of appendices. So don't stop when you get to the picture of Thumper! There is a lot to read after that.

If you do have a printer, it might be worth printing off page five and putting it on the fridge door! And you might also want to print off the Pope's meditation and read it when you have a quiet minute.

## **Readings at Mass**

I think the readings this week turn a corner in our journey through Lent. Instead of the traditional Lenten focus on how we have repeatedly turned away from God, the readings start to talk more about God's promise of a new beginning. The first readings starts, *"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."* Jeremiah 31:31. And then in the Gospel we move on from hearing repeatedly "his hour was not yet come", to instead hearing Jesus say, *"The hour is come, that the son of man should be glorified."* John 12:23.

We too should now move our focus towards the celebration of Easter. With this in mind, attached below are some details of what we will be doing for Holy Week and the Easter weekend.

## **Series of Lent Talks – Our Last Week!**

Two more cracking talks this last week. I managed to tie myself to the chair so I missed nothing of the talks, and saw all the wonderful pictures that Fr. Jonathan shared. I think this series has really been incredible. Well done Fr. Mark in Britain for arranging it.

Don't forget, for this last week of talks, each broadcast is at 1pm (Mountain Time), as is the Mass on Thursday.

I was delighted this last week to broadcast our Lenten Mass from Elkford. It was a wonderfully sunny day with a pure blue sky, so the view out of the windows was magnificent; Elkford at its best. But I so much wanted to include Elkford in the Lent Masses, even if it was just me and Thumper in the building.

The talks are gradually being put up on YouTube – all except Fr. Ned's talk, for reasons that Fr. Mark explained. The link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Z63PS4tyPqMcqbaDULqNQ>

Alternatively, go onto YouTube and search for “All Saints Parish Teignmouth”.

This week we have:

Monday 22nd March    Anthony Hodges                    *“The Ecology of Lent –  
a call to Life”*

Wednesday 24th March    Karen Cortes Foogn                    *“The Black Madonna’s  
Invitation to honour the Other”*

Thursday 25th March    Mass from somewhere in the Elk Valley

On Twitter Karen Cortes Foogn is described as, “Chair, Conference of Ongoing Formation Directors for Clergy in England & Wales and doctoral student of kenotic theology.” And just in case you were trying to remember what kenotic theology is, so was I! Kenos in Greek literally means “emptying” or the act of emptying. And St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians describes Christ emptying himself:

*“Though he was in the form of God,  
Jesus did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.  
Rather, he **emptied himself**,  
taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness”* Philippians 2:6-7,

Jesus emptied himself to take on our nature, and we too have to empty ourselves to take on Christ’s nature... I think! But to know where the Black Madonna comes in to it, you will have to wait until Wednesday to find out.

I am afraid that I don’t know who Anthony Hodges is, but an “ecology of Lent” sounds interesting.

## **Pope’s Meditation on Mothering**

As promised last week for ‘Mothering Sunday’, attached below there is a summary of a “morning meditation” given by Pope Francis in 2015. The idea that so much of our world, and particularly our western society, is an ‘orphan’ has just stuck with me. It seems so true that as a culture we are a lost soul without father or mother; no guide to consult and no arms in which to find comfort. Amazon will give us anything we ask, but it does not care about our good; Google will tell us whatever we want to know, but it does not love us; Facebook will give us hundreds of “friends”, as long as friendship requires no more commitment than a single click of the mouse. We might be orphans, but Mother Church wants to reach out to us and love us.





## Covid – A Year On

Covid and its related restrictions have been with us for a year now. Indeed, in Britain Tuesday is the first anniversary of when the country went into lockdown. So many in the UK are reflecting on the last year, and my home diocese will be having a special time of prayer and reflection on Tuesday when all the clergy will gather on-line. We will be observing a minute's silence in memory of those who we have lost to COVID-19, and bringing to prayer the other people who have been particularly hurt by this pandemic, but we will also be remembering things from the last year that we are grateful for because there have been blessings as well as hardships that have arisen in the last year. If you wanted something included in this, please let me know.

## And Finally...

I was part of a Zoom meeting this week when someone said that they saw God like a giant duvet in which they could wrap themselves. So I observed that perhaps they were talking about the third person of the Trinity, 'God, the Holy Spirit', that is, the Holy Spirit, the comforter.

With thanks and a promise of prayers,

*Fr. David @ Thumper*

## Two pictures:

**Below** – during clergy Zoom meetings there is a bit of a competition to see who can get the best backdrop. People thought that the one below was a photo of the mountains that I had inserted, until I moved the camera. I think I won this game!

**Right** – Thumper wanted you to see his backdrop as well as he thinks it is pretty good.



# *Meditation on Mothering*

*On 15th September 2015 Pope Francis gave a 'Morning Meditation' entitled:  
"Contagious Motherhood".*

*This is part of the Vatican's summary of that meditation.*

In a seemingly "orphaned" world there is hope for a "contagious motherhood" that brings acceptance, tenderness and forgiveness.

The Pontiff said that in this time when so many feel a sense of "orphanhood", this word 'Mother' "has great importance".

Jesus tells us: "I will not leave you orphaned, I give you a mother".

This legacy is also "our pride: we have a mother, who is with us, who protects us, accompanies us, helps us, even in difficult times, in bad moments".

Pope Francis recalled the tradition of the ancient Russian monks, those who "in times of spiritual turmoil", said that we must take refuge "under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God"

But, the Pope added,

"we can also say that this motherhood of Mary goes beyond" that, and is "contagious".

We can understand that in addition to the "motherhood of Mary" there is also "a second motherhood", that of "our 'Holy Mother Church', which engenders us in baptism, enables us to grow in her community", and has the very attitudes of motherhood: "meekness and goodness:

Mother Mary and Mother Church know how to caress their children, they give tenderness".

It is an essential characteristic, Francis pointed out.

Thinking of the Church without this motherhood

is like thinking of "a rigid organisation,

an organisation without human warmth, orphaned".

The Church, however, is "mother"

and she accepts us as a mother accepts her child.

So we have "Mother Mary and Mother Church".

But that's not all, the Pope explained.

Now this might "shock" us he said: "even our soul is mother",

there is even present within us a motherhood

"that is expressed in the attitudes of humility,

acceptance, understanding, goodness, forgiveness and tenderness".

## Holy Week and Easter Weekend Services

Next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday and then we are into Holy Week and Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then the Easter Weekend. We will be having just one Mass for Maundy Thursday, one service on Good Friday, a simple Easter Vigil on Easter Saturday night and just one Easter Sunday morning service, and all of these will be broadcast via Zoom. So the schedule is:

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Saturday 5pm	Communion after Mass in Fernie
	Sunday 9am	Communion after Mass in Sparwood
	Sunday 4pm*	Communion after Mass in Elkford
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Thursday 7pm	Communion after Mass in Fernie
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday 3pm	Communion after Mass in Sparwood
<b>Holy Saturday Night</b>	Saturday 5pm	Communion after Mass in Fernie
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Sunday 9am	Communion after Mass in Sparwood
	Sunday 4pm*	Communion after Mass in Elkford

\* means not broadcast on Zoom.

### ***Palm Sunday***

On Wednesday and Thursday this coming week we will be giving out our palms to anyone who wants them (hopefully they arrive in time!) I will be sitting outside the churches in Fernie and Sparwood at certain times and people are invited to come along during those times and pick up their palms.

When people turn up, I will be behind a table (to help social distancing) and there will be palms available on the table. You will be invited to choose how many palms you want – either just for your self, or also for others who might not be able to get to the church at this time. When you have your palms I will then read a short part of the Gospel from Palm Sunday and pray God's blessing on your palms. So each set of palms will be individually blessed, and we can bless you as well for your celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

It will be really good to see people in person so do come in you can but if you can't get to the available time-slots, I will also be blessing palms at our Palm Sunday services, so they can be collected after Mass when people come for Communion, and we will also see how we can make palms available during the following week.

So the times of the individual blessing of palms will be:

**Fernie** – Thursday 25th March from 11:30am to 12:30am  
*(This time is chosen to coincide with the CWL's soup and a bun lunch; so if you are coming to pick up soup and a bun, then you can pick up a palm at the same time.)*

**Sparwood** – Wednesday 26th March from 12noon to 1pm  
 Wednesday 26th March 5pm to 6pm.

**Elkford** – Palms will be given out after Mass with Communion.



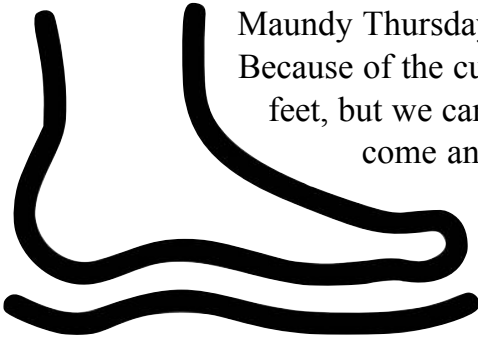
Hopefully everyone who has palms and then joins us via Zoom at the weekend will be able to wave them at the appropriate time.

***And be warned:*** I will be asking you if I can get a picture of you waving your palm after it has been blessed so I can make a montage of parishioners to include in our Palm Sunday services.



### ***Maundy Thursday***

If people feel comfortable coming to the church at lunchtime for their palms and this works okay, then I will try to do a similar event the following week for Maundy Thursday. The idea is that you would come and get your feet blessed! Because of the current restrictions I doubt that we will be able to wash anyone's feet, but we can bless them. So we will work out a small 'rite' where you can come and, without actually touching you, I will say a prayer over your feet and then sprinkle them with holy water. Then as you watch the Maundy Mass via Zoom you will know that your feet are truly part of the service. (Again, you might be asked if we can include a picture of your feet at the service!)



### ***Good Friday***

The service for Good Friday will be very simple, and basically will be the reading of the Passion from John's gospel and prayers for our world. And as Jesus died outside the city walls, so this service will be broadcast from outside of the church walls – nothing as dramatic as Christmas, but not from church. We are still working on this!



### ***Holy Saturday***

Whatever happens with the Covid restrictions, we are still expecting that the majority of people who will be joining us will join us remotely rather than in person. So the Easter Vigil on Saturday night will be a very simplified event.

We will have the lighting of the Easter Candle, the blessing of water and the renewal of baptismal vows, but there will be no processions and no dressing of the altar half way through the service; we will try to keep movement to a minimum and to keep those watching from home as involved as possible.

### ***Easter Sunday***

Easter Sunday morning will again be a simple but hopefully joy filled Easter celebration. Again, not great feats of liturgy, just the liturgy of the Word and the praying of the Eucharist done as best we can.



## **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](mailto:info@holyfamilyfernie.ca)

[ElkValleyRC@gmail.com](mailto:ElkValleyRC@gmail.com)

## **Link to Lenten Talks & Masses**

Again, to get the link to our Lent talks and 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](mailto:info@holyfamilyfernie.ca)

[ElkValleyRC@gmail.com](mailto: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.*