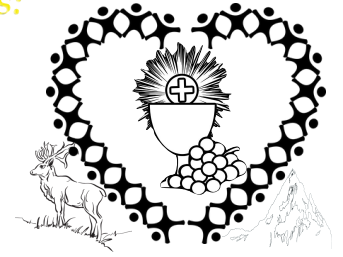


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:  
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,  
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

**Dear All,**

***Happy Easter***... again!

Welcome to Deacon Stephen who will be preaching this weekend on the last day of the 'Octive' of Easter, so we will still be referring to today as 'Easter Day'.

I want to start by thanking everyone who was involved in the services from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. So many people have said to me how impressed they were with the settings for Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. I always reply that I had nothing to do with the building of the 'tomb' we used on Good Friday, that was done by a group of loyal and hard working parishioners in Sparwood; similarly the beautiful Easter Candle in Fernie was again arranged by others. And, of course, the music was so good throughout the Triduum, with Jeanette singing her heart out on Easter Sunday! So thank you to everyone who was involved. And on a more personal note, thank you to the good number of people who turned out for the blessing of palms, and then a week later, the blessing of feet. I also received Easter greetings in a variety of forms from containers of soup to greetings cards, so thank you for all of those as well.



*(Right: the 'tomb' the ladies built in Sparwood for Good Friday.)*



*Above: The altar floodlit for the Mass.*

*Below: the view to the east where I hoped the sun would appear.*

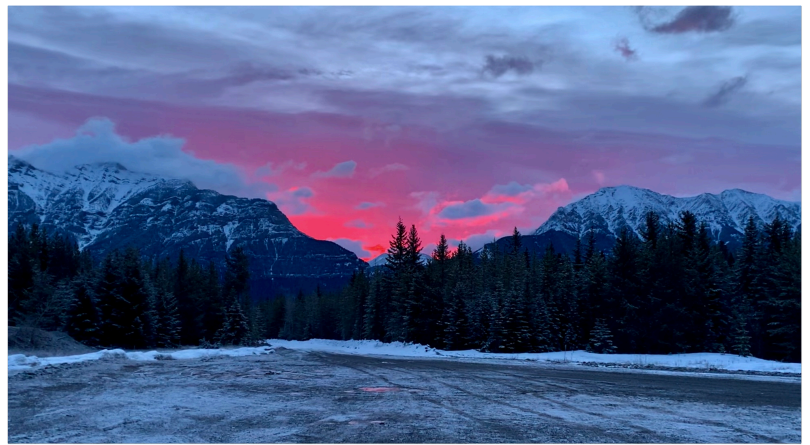


## Easter Sunday Morning

On Easter Sunday I was trying to be clever (or perhaps, too clever). I went out at 6am to the middle of nowhere and celebrated Mass on my own (alone apart from Thumper). The idea was that sun rise was due at 7:09am and I chose a place with a relatively low horizon to the east. My hope was that I would get to the consecration of the Mass just as the sun appeared over the horizon, so as I raised up the Host, the Sun would rise... But it was cloudy, so 7:09am looked no different from any other moment. What a disappointment.

That was okay, the cleverness I tried – not very successfully – was to record part of it and bring it back and play it at Mass. The hour I had to edit this was not nearly enough, which was sad as there were some lovely pictures of me sitting looking in vain eastwards.

And as a post-script to this, today, Friday, I got up early and once more tried to catch the rising of the sun. The weather forecast was good and it promised a clear day, and as I left the house the sky was clear but I could see a bank of cloud amassing in the east. And sure enough, while we had some lovely red sky's just before dawn, again by the time the sun was above the horizon thick cloud obscured it from sight.



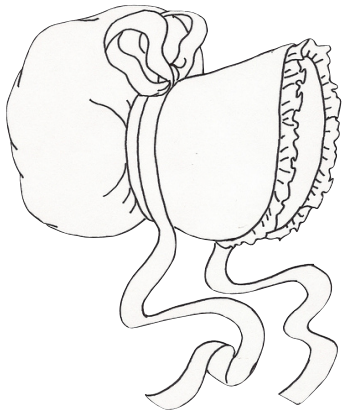
*Above: Lets of red sky before dawn, but no sun visible.*

## Our Kids!

In the three parishes we have a number of kids who are in catechism, and a lot more families with kids of various ages. I am so conscious of how hard it must be during Covid for families with kids to keep their youngsters engaged with our faith and particularly with the celebration of Mass.

There was one young Mum who I was talking to a few weeks ago. She said that her daughter had just turned five years old and the last time that she was in church she was three. The mum went on to explain that she really didn't have any clear memories of what she was doing when she was three. Perhaps she could remember something that was outstanding, but at that age they don't hang on to general memories. So this five year old really had no idea what it was like being at Mass! And sitting in front of a laptop screen really didn't build a meaningful picture for her.

So this prompted a number of thoughts. Firstly, our need to be attentive to all our youngsters, and to remember to talk to them about 'church'; perhaps not so much from the head with facts and rules, but more from the heart.



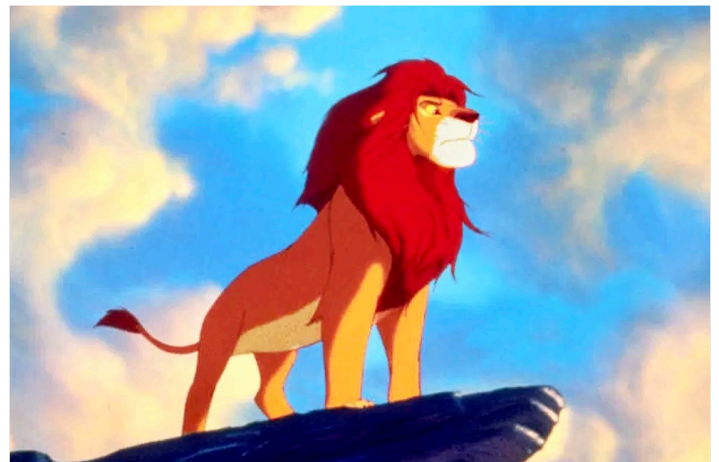
My Mum-in-England used to tell me the story about going to church at Easter, and her mother, Naina, had dressed her up in an Easter bonnet. But on that occasion she felt unwell and said to Naina that she was going to be sick. Naina knocked the bonnet off her head just in time for my Mum to throw up into it. That was the last she ever saw of her Easter bonnet. This story left me with such a lovely picture of my mum, not only as a little girl but as a little girl *in church*.

Many parishioners have also shared with me stories from their younger years and being in church (usually of the antics that they got up to when altar serving), so do remember to share these down the generations.

The second thought that went through my brain was the idea that when we are allowed to open again we must be very aware of our youngsters and their need to get used to church again. I don't know when or how we will open, but the youngsters might need to have any priority we can give in this process.

## The Lion King

Thumper is like any kid: he goes through 'phases'. Currently he is trying to look important. I think he must have watched the Lion King at some point because that is what he seems to be imitating at the moment.



## **And Finally...**

As this morning (Friday) I was up at 5am trying to catch the sun rising, I heard the news as it was announced of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Queen and all who will mourn the passing of this great man who knew the importance of the role played by the churches in society.

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



## **Zoom Links**

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### **Link to Weekend Masses**

To get the link to our two weekend 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@hollyfamilyfernie.ca](mailto:info@hollyfamilyfernie.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.*

