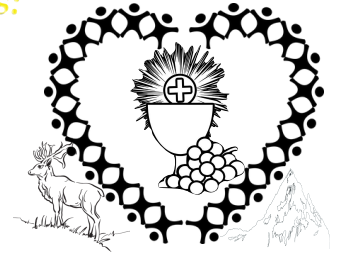


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:  
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,  
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

*17th/18th April – Third Sunday of Easter*

## **Dear All,**

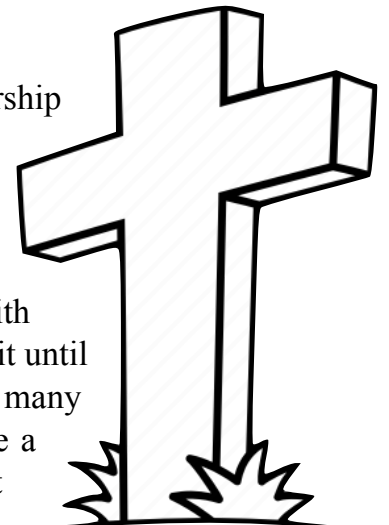
I am conscious that this e-mail is a bit more parish focused than usual, but hopefully those outside the parish will still be able to draw something from it. And if I say the weather has been so good this week, only a few snow flurries and not far below zero at night, then you will see that I am talking specifically about our mountain communities of the Elk Valley. But the sun has been warm, which is wonderful.

## **Lilio Colonello**

A week ago Lilio died very suddenly at his home in Sparwood. As Lilio was a teacher and principal both in Sparwood and Elkford for very many years, he and Trudy will be known by most people in the community. Our heartfelt prayers go to Trudy and the boys and the extended family. Lilio's funeral is this Saturday (17th April) at 11am. For a Zoom link to the funeral Mass please e-mail Cherished Memories as soon as possible at [cmfs@shaw.ca](mailto:cmfs@shaw.ca)

## **Anniversaries**

We have now been under the Covid restrictions on our worship services for over a year. This means that we are reaching the first anniversaries of some who died but were unable to have the normal funeral service. The families of these people were told that these temporary restrictions were in place – probably until the summer – so they could have a very small affair with only a handful of people allowed to be present or they could wait until the restrictions were lifted. Obviously in these circumstances many people said that they would wait until later in the year to have a service. And now 2020 has come and gone and a significant slice of 2021 has also passed, and we *still* cannot have full funerals; this is so sad.



Early on in the pandemic one family were arranging the funeral of their mother and they said to me that her 'nearest and dearest' came from different parts of Canada and they didn't think that they could get together and *not* hug and embrace each other; and if they did try to do this it would just add to the whole trauma of the event. Funerals are not meant to traumatise but to heal.

So I fear that there is a lot of pain out there that hasn't had the chance to be healed by the process of a funeral. A funeral in any form fulfils many needs; it is people coming together to share their loss and grief, and it honours the memory of a person in a very public way. For us as Christians it gives us a chance to face the death of a loved one surrounded by prayer and in the context of faith which bring hope. And when we celebrate a full blown funeral Mass there are so many other symbols that point to our faith in Christ's victory over death as we are fed at the meal we call a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. And, yes, it is normally a time that we get the assurance of hugs which says so much more than words.

So my heart and my prayers go out to all those who are feeling the loss of a loved one but also feel that – *as yet* – the passing of that person has not properly been acknowledged, celebrated and brought to prayer. And if you are in this situation, let me know; if you have been unable to hold a funeral for someone close to you, or if you were unable to be part of a funeral for someone you loved, then let me know and we can pray for them and pray for you.

And if you are in this parish and as yet haven't had a funeral service because you are waiting for the restrictions to be lifted, but feel you want to do something in the mean time, again let me know. I really don't want people to be thinking that their loved ones (near or far) have not been brought in prayer to God, and that prayers of thanksgiving haven't been offered. We can do this.

With this in mind, this last week we saw the first anniversary of Dora Aquila, and we lit a candle for her on her anniversary, said prayers for her and her family, and we have sent off a Mass offering to one of the retired priests of the diocese who will offer a Mass for her. And I know that in May there are a number of anniversaries coming up, so prayers for you all.

## Our Kids!

As mentioned last week, I worry about our youngsters and their connection with church and particularly with the celebration of Mass. To this end, starting soon in Fernie we will be asking our catechism kids to take it in turns and either read or altar serve at our 5pm Saturday Mass. So for those joining us through Zoom on Saturdays, you will hopefully see a whole variety of young faces (sometimes looking a bit scared, sometimes excited) helping out with Mass. Do keep them all in your prayers as they journey in faith at this difficult time.

## And Finally...

As mentioned, being in the great outdoors and the feeling of warm sunshine brings me joy. On this week's video Thumper shows just how much he can wag his tail when he is happy, but he just wanted to add that for him joy is going for a walk *and* having a big bone!

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





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## 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@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.*