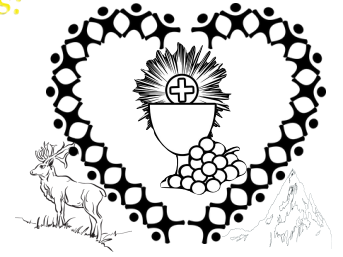


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:  
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,  
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

*15th/16th May – Feast of the Ascension*

## **Dear All,**

Greetings from the Elk Valley. This week I was privileged to be able to get my second covid vaccination; I had my first back in January because one is only allowed into the care homes and hospital if one is vaccinated.

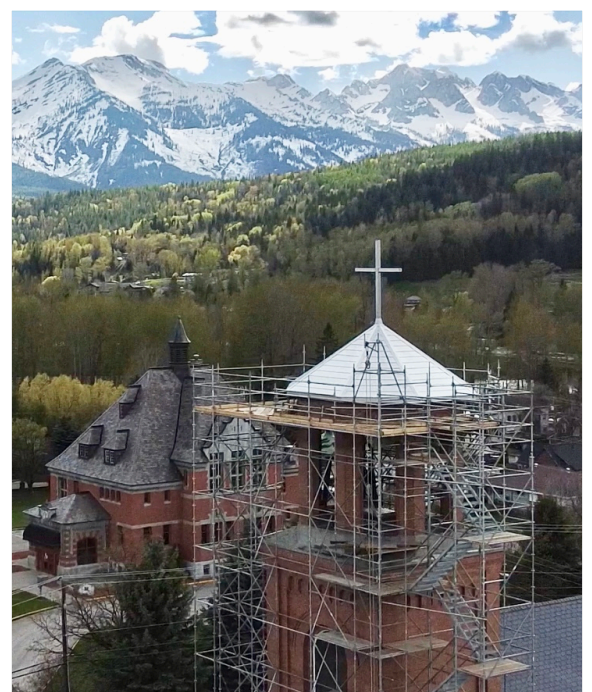
I was very fortunate that for my first jab I had absolutely no side-effects, not even a sore arm. The second was very slightly more difficult with a bit of disturbed sleep the following night, but by 4:30am I knew that whatever was happening within me had happened and I was fine after that, if a little tired.

Such a good job that my truck was repaired so I can disappear off for a little bit of stillness. I am writing this on Wednesday afternoon, and tonight I will be camping – yippie! *(Even if I have to be back in town tomorrow, at least I will have had one night away.)*

## **Bell Tower in Fernie**

We got a lot of feedback about the work on the bell tower. The new roof is now on. When I was there yesterday the sun wasn't shining, so the new roof didn't stand out that much, but I hope with the sun on it, it will really be a landmark on the Fernie skyline!

Of course, when one does any work on a building as old as ours, new problems come to light. And that is true for this job as well. While the builders were there they inspected the area round the bell. We knew that the floor







under the bell needed some attention, but we also found some rot in the main wooded beams that hold the bell on the tower (*right*) and the big wheel that operates the bell is also in very poor condition (*left*). So currently we are trying to get quotes as to how much these repairs will be.

### **Flying Flags at Half-Mast**

This week Bp. Gregory wrote to us and asked us to fly any flags we might have at half-mast on Friday (14th May), as this is the anniversary of the legalisation of abortion in Canada back in 1969.

Since then we, as a society, have ‘got rid of’ over four million human lives through abortion.

Not only are we, as a country, poorer for the gifts and talents these four million people would have brought to us, but we have left so many people scarred by the memory of abortion.

How many of those four million would have gone on to be nurses, or teachers, or scientists, or priests and religious? All of them would have gone on to be sons or daughters and much loved members of our world.

And speaking from my own perspective, through the normalisation of abortion we have significantly cheapened the value of human life, so is it any wonder that euthanasia is becoming more common? If we don’t respect the human life in the womb when it is inconvenient just because it is not visible and is humanity in a very basic form, how long before our old and frail, once removed from sight, will similarly be deemed to be ‘inconvenient’ and thus a problem to be ‘got rid of’?





I am not aware that we have a flagpole at any of our churches and the only flagpole I know is the one on my camper! So on Friday I will be flying the Canadian flag at half-mast on the back of my camper. *(See photo on previous page.)*



### And Finally...

Just as a note, in my ‘flag locker’ I have nine flags: two Canadian flags, one big and one small, the Union flag (UK’s flag), nation flags from Ireland and Wales, provincial flags from B.C. and Alberta *(in case I am camping on that side of the boarder)*, the Vatican’s flag and one with a dogs paw on it for Thumper *(left)*. I have always liked flags, but in Britain, all flags are brought in at night, they are never left flying overnight.

With prayers,  
*Fr. David @ Thumper*

*Below: Because we only got out camping quite late, the sun was already setting and the last rays were lighting up the mountains on the other side of the valley (left). But we were sufficiently high so we found some deep snow covering the roads. And what is snow for? To bury one’s nose in – at least, it is if you are a dog (right)!*



2019

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## Zoom Links

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### **Link to Weekend Masses** *(it is the same link for either Mass)*

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)

### **Chat:**

*Feel free to greet people via the chat when you join our broadcast,  
and if you are praying for anything particularly,  
do share this with others on the Chat.*

*Hopefully our “1A - Chat (Co-Host)” will pick this up and pass it on to me.*

### **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.*