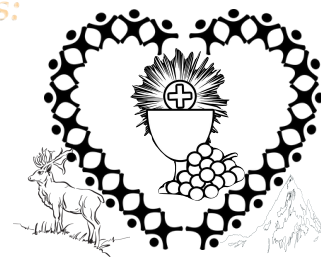


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:  
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,  
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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



*Above is one of the stain glass windows in Fernie.*

*Right is a close-up of the part that depicts the Trinity.*

*The idea of the Father holding Christ at his death became popular in 15<sup>th</sup> century artwork.*



*29th/30th May – Trinity Sunday*

**Dear All,**

Another busy week! I am writing this very early in the week because on Saturday we have the Catholic Women's Leagues diocesan convention, except, because we can't meet together in person, we don't call it a convention but an 'Annual Members Meeting' (AMM). Hopefully CWL members from across the diocese will be represented at this on-line meeting. Each diocese is having one of these meetings and these will feed into our 'Provincial AMM' in June. *(As this is the B.C. & Yukon CWL Provincial AMM, does this make it a BCYCWL PAMM?)*.

Last week the CWL in Fernie celebrated their hundredth birthday by planting a tree in front of the Fernie Family Centre. Congratulations to them.

**For Announcement about Reopening the Churches, please see below.**



## Bishop Christopher, Retired Bishop of Plymouth

Many of you will have heard me talk about Bp. Christopher, my retired bishop in Britain. We heard last week that he has been diagnosed with cancer. At present I know nothing more; I don't know where the cancer is or what sort of prognosis he has been given, but I would ask you to keep him in prayer. The e-mail from the diocese said, "He is to undergo an important procedure on Wednesday 26th May", but I know no more than this.

The word 'cancer' is so emotive, in the sense that it invokes such a negative image, but of course, there are many cancers that are slow growing and we are told that most of us will have a number of cancers in us when we die, and most often we are completely unaware of their presence! So I don't at this stage want to paint a too pessimistic picture. Bp. Christopher was 84 last Thursday, and I am told that the older you get the slower cancers seem to grow. When I know more I will let you know.

It is just that Bp. Christopher has been as much a father-figure to me as my own father was. And he overlooked so many of my foibles, which I always think is a saintly characteristic!

We do wish him well as his illness is fully diagnosed and he is treated by the medics, and we keep him in prayer.

## A Sad Week in the Valley

A sad week in the valley; in Sparwood on Tuesday Sally Travis' husband, Harvey, passed away. In Fernie on Thursday Sandra Rahal passed away. Both had been ill for a long time, but both will leave a very big space in many people's lives. Our prayers are with them and their families.

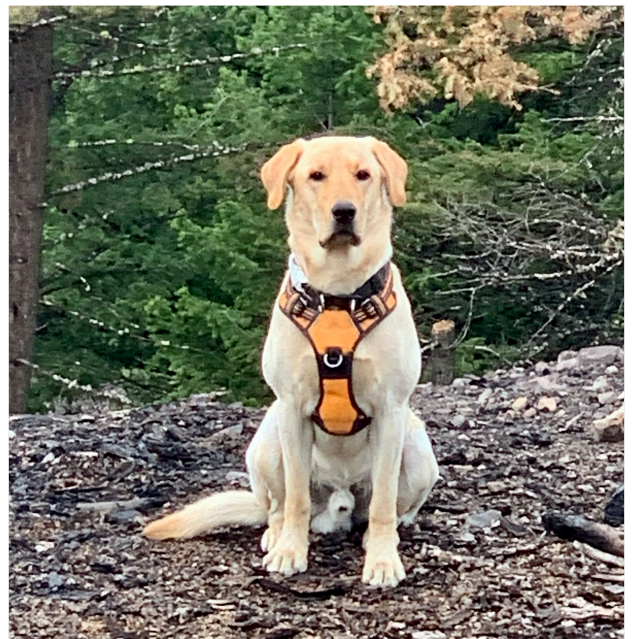
## And Finally...

This week Thumper has been doing a lot of waiting as I have been so busy. He is such a good looking dog and so patient!

With prayers, *Fr. David @ Thumper*



*Myself and Bp. Christopher at Moberly Lake, B.C. many years ago!*



## Church Reopening

Wow! On Tuesday the government's website was updated saying the words "*You must not attend an indoor service at a church...*", then on Thursday it was changed again to say, "*Religious worship services of up to 50 people may be held indoors*". I point this out to say that it has caught me slightly on the hop, and so our arrangements for this weekend are a bit rushed at the last minute.



All three of our churches, Fernie, Sparwood and Elkford, will be open this weekend.

Fernie at 5pm Saturday,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday,  
Elkford at 4pm Sunday.

Our broadcast Masses will continue as normal via Zoom.

Communion after Mass will continue to be distributed to those who cannot attend Mass for any reason.

For the safety of all we would encourage all parishioners, if they can, to get vaccinated; that means, to have both jabs!

I am sure that everyone is used to going into places and wearing masks, being asked basic health questions and being asked for contact details; at church we will be doing exactly this just like so many other places.

We will run with these arrangements for one weekend and see how it goes, then during next week hopefully we will review how it went, we will check whether we were able to keep to all the protocols, and then we will make any amendments necessary.

At each Mass we will need volunteers to welcome people, to ask everyone if they are healthy, if they have a mask and if they know the basic rules, and then collect their details.



**KEEP  
CALM  
WE ARE  
OPEN  
AGAIN**



## Things to Note

There are a few, probably self-obvious, things to note:

**Contact Details** – When you enter church you will be asked the standard health check questions and then you will be asked, for each ‘bubble’, to provide a contact name and telephone number or e-mail address.

**Numbers** – If we should reach our allowed number of 50 people, sadly we will have to start turning people away. Having said that, I doubt that we will reach this number in any of the places. Over time, if we start getting close to the allowed limit, then we might have to look at introducing a ‘booking’ system, but hopefully it won’t come to that.

**Health Check** – I am sure you have heard this so many times, but it needs to be said,

- If you are feeling unwell at all, even if you think it is an allergy or if you lose your sense of taste or smell, then ***please don’t come to church.***
- If you think you might have been in contact with someone who might have Covid (*even if no positive test results have come back as yet*), then ***please don’t come to church.***
- If you have any underlying health issues or you live with someone who has serious health vulnerabilities, then ***please don’t come to church.***

**Protocols** –

- Masks must be worn at all times, even when people are sitting in the pews. Readers can remove their masks while reading.
- You must keep two metres from anyone who is not in your household.
- There is to be no mingling either before or after Mass; please enter, and once registered, **go to the most forward place available.** (*See note below.*)
- You will be invited to leave straight after Communion as we have previously done. In Sparwood and Elkford this should be through the side door.

**Sit near the front** – We ask this for a number of reasons:

- If we start to get full and everyone has sat at the back, someone who has come late is unlikely to want to walk past everyone to the front, so they will be tempted to squeeze in at the back. This is what we want to avoid.
- Also, for some time yet our services will be ‘hybrid’ services where initially more people might be joining us remotely than in person. Because of echo and feedback issues while running Zoom, we cannot have the church microphones on at any significant level, so if you sit at the back you might well not be able to hear. And having been deprived of attending Mass in person for so long, wouldn’t it be such a waste to turn up and hear nothing! So please sit as near the front as you can.

## 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)

### **Chat:**

*Feel free to greet people via the chat when you join our broadcast, and if you are praying for anything particular, 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.*

*Thumper is saying,  
“Haven’t you finished  
that e-mail yet!  
Come on,  
it is walk time.”*

