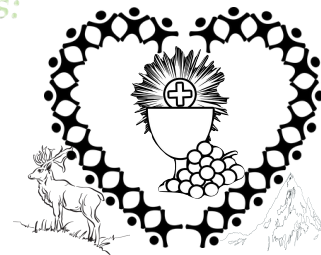


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

26th/27th June — Start of a beautiful Week



Dear All,

When it arrives, I hope you have an enjoyable Canada Day. Here in the Elk Valley it looks like the weather is really good this week. We have hot sun shine but also the occasional rain, which is good because it greatly reduces the chance of forest fires, as well as keeping our lovely Valley green.

I hope you do manage to get out and do something enjoyable as we remember our countries birthday.

Catholic Women's League

As it is not possible for the CWL to have a Provincial Convention at this time, instead we are having an on-line meeting of members. This is mostly to fulfil requirements to vote through certain items and to elect new members to the executive, thus we won't get any of the great talks that are often so good at the CWL's conventions.

I still remember the talk given by Bishop Gary Gordon in Nanaimo two years ago; he was such an inspiration. A lot of what he said was in relation to First Nations ministry and the gift that the First Nations people are to the Church. I don't remember all the details of what he said, but I do remember one story of how he turned up at a remote church in Northern Vancouver Island to celebrate Mass, but no one else turned up. So after waiting a bit he wandered out and there were fishermen from the local First Nations community scraping barnacles off the bottom of their boats, so he joined in. It was a beautiful story that reminded me as a priest that my role of presiding at Mass is intimately connected with every other small act I do within the community.

We keep the CWL in our prayers, particularly those who will be stepping forward to take on new roles of leadership and service within the provincial executive.

**Our churches are now open for limited numbers.
Covid is still in the population – so caution is needed!**



Saskatchewan

This week we are hearing more news from former Residential Schools, and of course, the likelihood is that there will be still more discoveries in other places. This is so heartbreaking for any family who had relatives at any of these schools, and so sad for the rest of us as we try to comprehend what happened.

Really I don't think there is anything meaningful I can say but I also didn't want to say nothing. My thoughts and prayers go out firstly to all those who were involved in the Residential Schools, and to all who are feeling pain at this time.

A number of people have mentioned to me that their grown-up kids, who perhaps are not that close to the Church, have found the media reports particularly difficult and they have reacted by distancing themselves even further from the Church. Really, this is understandable in some ways, and it is a reminder of what a long journey we have to travel to rebuild our place in the society. Remember that here in B.C. the Provincial Health officials closed the churches for month after month after month while leaving pubs open. We have a lot of work to do.

Journeying in Faith – *Lorelai Gulyas*

We have another First Communion this weekend. Lorelai Gulyas will receive her First Holy Communion at our Saturday evening Mass in Fernie. We congratulate her and keep her in our prayers, along with all the other youngsters who are taking the sacraments this summer.

Father Albert Lawes

I was up at 5am again this morning (Friday) because back in my home diocese of Plymouth, England, we had an ordination. A young man called Albert was ordained a priest. Obviously it is wonderful to have another priest in the diocese, and a young priest at that, but Albert brings more than just a newly ordained pair of hands to our diocese. Having been through university and then studied in Rome for six years, he is a very intelligent young man, but really it is his faith that is the important part. In an interview on YouTube Albert talks about himself and his path to priesthood. He said that the starting point for his journey to ordination was when *“I realised that Jesus really loved me, just as I was; that He wanted to share His live with me, and to help me through the ups and downs of my own life.”*



Fr. Thomas (left) and Fr. Albert (right); two brothers who are now both priests.

I thought it was really wonderful that his vocation wasn't based upon "I want to be a priest", but rather, "I realised that Jesus really loved me"! For that is the starting point for all of us on our journey through Christian life.

Last year when describing his time at seminary [priests' training college], he said,

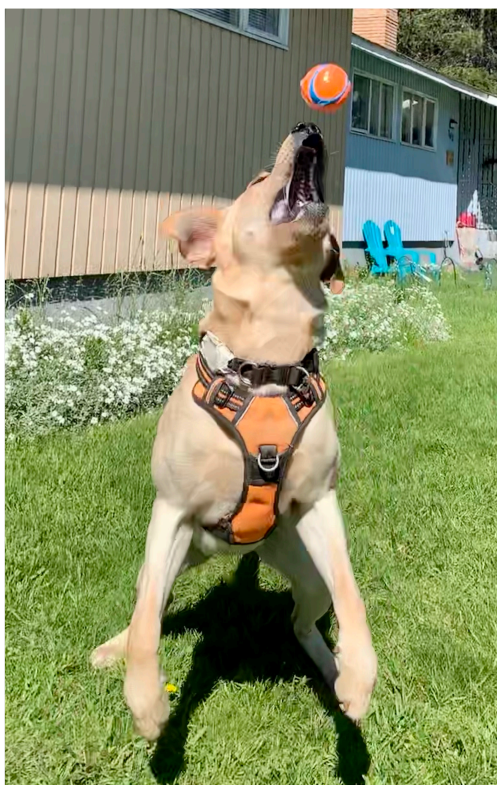
"In a nutshell, it involves placing yourself under the loving gaze of God and allowing Him to mould you into yourself. It involves great joy, because you learn that you are loved, but also sadness, because you realise how difficult it is to love as God loves. I have had to face much about myself that I struggle with, and also to learn how to see others through God's eyes. Most importantly, in order to say 'yes' to what God is asking of me, I have had to learn that He is asking me, with all my strengths, but also my weaknesses, to be His priest. And He asks this of me simply because He loves me. It is an acceptance, not of a job, but of a gift".

I found these words uplifting and refreshing. We do congratulate Fr. Albert and rejoice with his family and with the Plymouth Diocese. And if you want to see the short – under four minutes – video, it is at:

<https://youtu.be/qGVhI3A0JAY>

Albert's younger brother, Thomas, was ordained a priest (for a different diocese) last September and another younger brother, Dominic, is training for the priesthood out in Australia. Now that family obviously got something right!

(Do you ever see an RCMP officer and think, "Is he really old enough to be a policeman?" Well look at Fr. Albert – now that is a young priest! In fact I think Fr. Albert is now thirty, and Fr. Thomas is a few years younger than him.)



And Finally...

Oh my goodness! I have been so busy this week that I haven't taken any photos of Thumper! How could that of happened? I did manage to get a picture of spicy waffles poutine, but not of all the cholesterol rushing to the veins around my heart.

So there you go, we just popped outside and I managed to throw the ball so it exactly lined up with Thumper's mouth. I have a knack of being able to do that.

With prayers, *Fr. David & Thumper*



Zoom Links

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

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Audio Only

So don't forget, if you are off camping and your data plan does not allow you to watch Sunday Mass on Zoom without using up all of your month's data in one go, then you can always call in and listen. Again, e-mail the office for the link for this.

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.

If you don't want everyone to see your message you can send your message directly to "1A - Chat" and it will remain private.

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.

Everyone still needs to be careful.

Even having a Covid vaccination doesn't prevent you carrying the disease and giving it to others! Thus if you are vaccinated, please don't say, "I'm okay, I have had the jab, so I can go and hug people." This might be given as a gesture of love and kindness, but now is not the time for this. ***Everyone still needs to be careful.***

