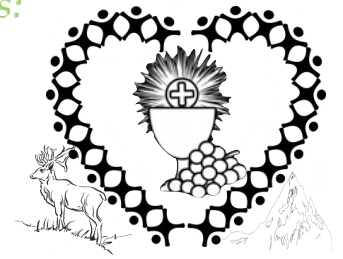


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).



16th/17th October

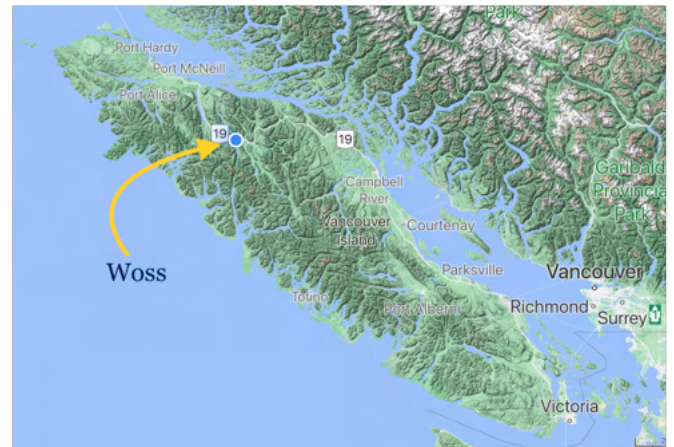
Dear All,

Greetings again from the north of Vancouver Island. I am writing this early in the week as things will get more busy as the week goes on.

I stayed in Woss – *a couple of hours north of Campbell River* – for almost five days. Woss is a bit of a run down, sleepy village just off the highway in the middle of nowhere, but it has the most stunning river running around it

and it has a steam train, (*see photos*), both of which add some charm. And I found a hide-way that was, for me, the perfect camping spot (or perhaps I should say,

near perfect as it rained so much!) Most importantly, there was absolutely no one about and the place was totally silent (*except for the sound of rain*). It was fairly open and rocky rather than muddy, and it even had an outhouse! The village was less than 4km away via trails through the forest, which meant that I could cycle to the local store and Thumper could run alongside all the way.



And to top it all, there was reasonably good cell service here, so I could, with the help of my signal booster on the roof of my camper (*see photo right*) broadcast our Sunday Masses from here. I was going to be clever and put a camera outside and do all sorts of things, but I have had so many zoom meetings while I have been away that I was short of data and had to keep buying extra from Bell, thus I decided to keep the Sunday Masses simple with just two cameras.

A real plus was that there are many nice trails in all

directions that took us to wonderful lakes or lookout points, so Thumper and myself did a lot

of exploring. A number of these trails are disused rail tracks, which include very high ‘trestle’ bridges (*see left*). Each day we covered between twenty to twenty-five kilometres; after that Thumper never looked tired but did sleep very well.





I did head up to Port Hardy and Port Robert, but not until Tuesday. The reason that I was late in getting up there was that Monday was a lovely sunny day in Woss, and it seemed just too nice to move on. (Additionally, I wanted to stay connected to the internet as I knew a few things were happening in the parish.)

And really, apart from this photo (*left*), that is all that happened up there. That part of the sea is very protected from the ocean so there was next to no swell.

One of the things that I so loved seeing when I was in Newfoundland was the constantly moving ocean sending its restless waves to beat upon the rocky coast sending spray in all directions. My visit to the ocean off the west coast of Vancouver Island will have to wait for another day.

CWL Work

Work wise, not a lot more has happened since I wrote the last e-mail. I am visiting the CWL's Provincial Communications chair and Diocesan Past President on the Island on Thursday before heading back to the mainland and the Elk Valley.



But looking at my time away as a whole, it is amazing that we can have 'zoom' meetings with people, yet the experience of sitting down with a cup of coffee gives one so much more connection with the person. Zoom is great for 'functional' interaction, but really one needs to be face to face for the relationship part of the meeting. For that reason, I am very happy with these last two weeks.

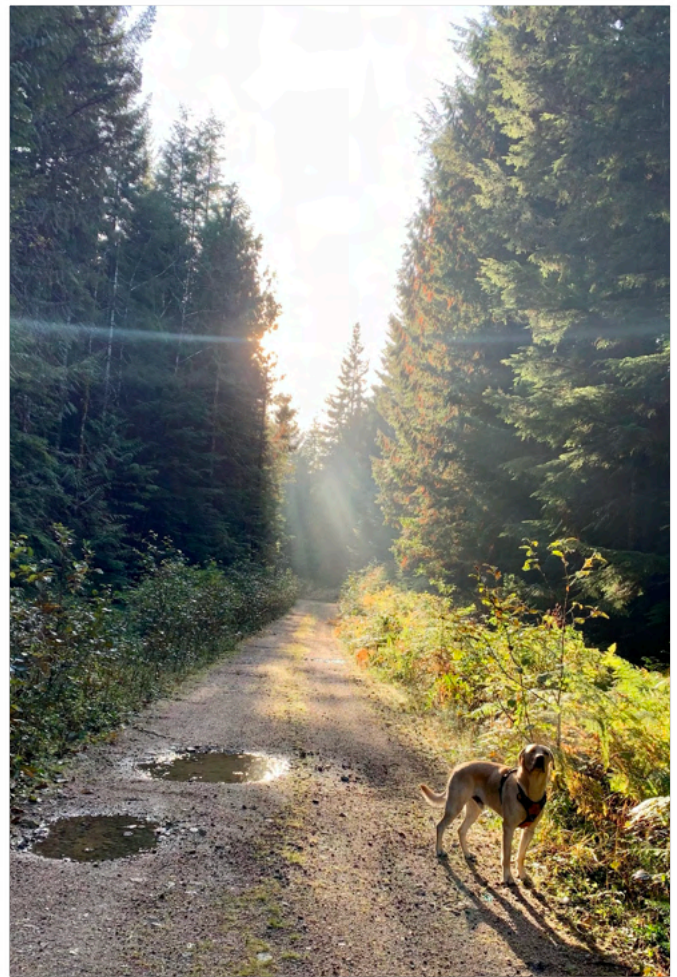
My Return

I am returning to a really busy week; just on Saturday there will be a funeral followed by two baptisms and then Mass, so please don't expect me to say anything intelligent at the weekend Masses. Then the following week I have another funeral and a burial of someone who died earlier in the year, plus I am sure a pile of other work.

And Finally...

When Ranga was getting older I got her a ramp to make it easier for her to get in and out of the camper, and Thumper also used it when he was a puppy. So I took it with us and put it out for Thumper to use. He didn't really care but a number of mice saw it and were very grateful for a nice easy way to get into somewhere that otherwise was a bit high off the ground. One morning we were sitting there and we heard noises from inside the cupboards; when I pulled the draw out there was a little face looking back at me. But Thumper came to the rescue and was willing to go after the uninvited guest, such a shame he is so big!

With prayers. *Fr. David @ Thumper*



25/29



Our churches are still open *without* a limit on numbers.
But Covid is in the population – so caution is needed!



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, you might be sitting in your eight-and-a-half foot camper in the endless pouring rain in the north of Vancouver Island, but if you have cell service, 'church' is still there and available. So even if you don't have access to the internet you can still listen to Mass while you are on your travels via a phone call to our Zoom link.

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.

Normally there is "IA - Chat (Co-Host)" who watches the chat for any problems or prayer intentions. If you don't want everyone to see your message you can send your message directly 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; we will be with you as quickly as we can.

And for those who are attending church in person, be careful:

Please continue to be careful when you are in church. Please sanitise your hands, wear a mask when moving about the church as you might come within a 'breath distance' of others, and be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about. **Everyone still needs to be careful.**

