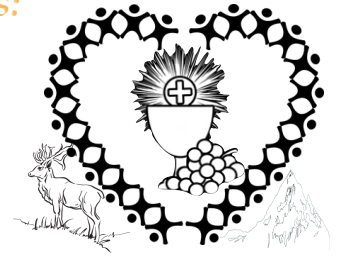


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

*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).*

*20th/21st November*

**Dear All,**

What a week for British Columbia. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have been through the trauma of floods and evacuations. And many of those worst effected were the ones who were most threatened by wild fires in the summer. I do really hope that all those effected by these environmental phenomena will soon be able to return to the security of their homes and a more settled way of life.

***Climate Change, the Economy, Indigenous Peoples, Residential Schools, our Synodal Journey and even Covid – all in one thought!!!***

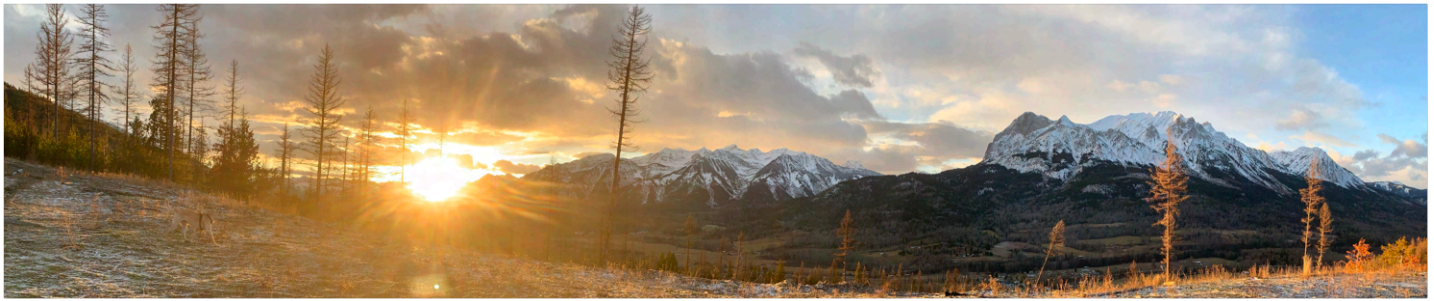
After this I wonder how, in British Columbia, we will collectively look at the issues of climate change? Will it become the central issue in government policies, or will the growth of GDP (gross domestic product) still be all dominant? There has been an adage that ‘when the United States sneezes, Canada catches a cold’, but perhaps we need to update this to: ‘when our planet sneezes British Columbia catches a cold’? So I wonder if these events will spur people on with a renewed concern for our planet, to ensure that it doesn’t have any cause to sneeze.

I say this, not so much as an environmentalist, but as someone interested in developing an ever increasing understanding of the leading of the Spirit. There is no denying that our faith is *expressed* through our culture, but as a result, our faith can also end up being *influenced* by our culture. And this is problematic as our Western culture has traditionally been a culture of domination, so for example, it has had little regard for the wellbeing of our earth, when we look at the First Nations culture it has at the heart of its belief the central relationship between our earth and the Creator God, and thus by implication, a vital link between our environment and us.

And of course, in the last year we also had the coming to nationwide consciousness of what happened in the Residential Schools, when the dominant western culture tried, for whatever reason, to wipe out the traditional culture and beliefs of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit.



*The logo from FNFNES,  
the First Nations  
Food, Nutrition &  
Environment Study.*



*Above: Our beautiful environment – The sun setting over Fernie as seen from the hills east of Hosmer.*

*Right: Thumper standing in the setting sun.*

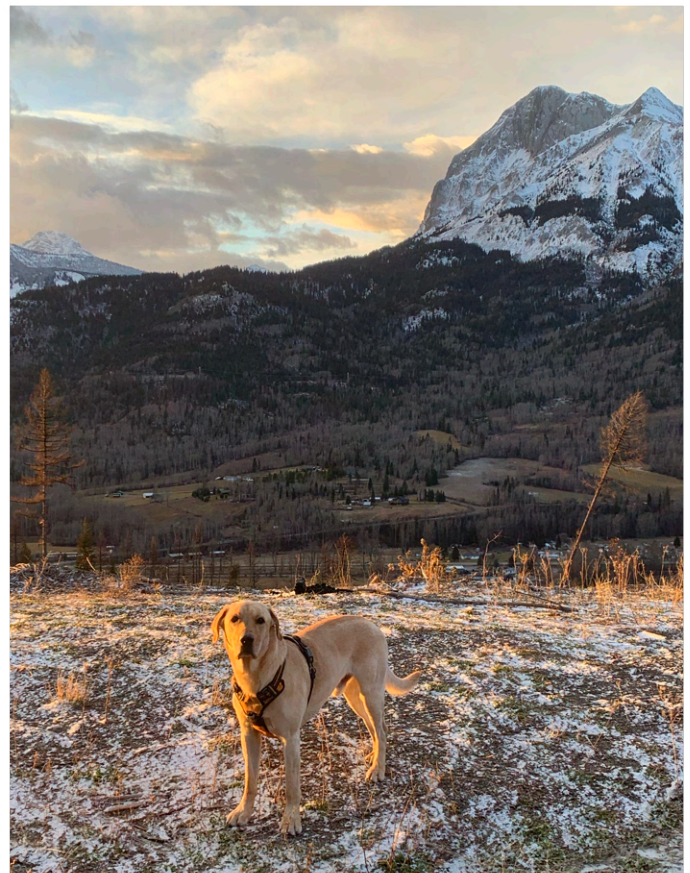
It will be very ironic if, having attempted to get rid of what was considered an ‘inferior’ and ‘native’ set of beliefs, now just a few generations later the western culture is attempting to find that relationship with the earth that the indigenous population of Canada has always had.

Again, I say this not to make a well thought through and argued case for anything, but as a hope that we can keep a certain humility, and an understanding that we are not there yet, but we are still on a journey and need to constantly be listening to the prompting of the Spirit.

And as such, this weekend’s feast of Christ the King, the Synodal Journey that Pope Francis is asking us to embark upon, the reconciliation and healing process that the Churches in particular are being asked to make with the indigenous peoples of Canada, not to mention all the green movement issues, all suddenly seem to be connected.

This week the diocese asked us what our forecast was for population change in each of our parishes over the next fifteen years (!?!); all I know is that the more we realise that we are a pilgrim people on a journey, the more we listen to the Holy Spirit, the more we attune ourselves with God and God’s creation, then the easier reconciliation will be and the more relevant the Church will become in society. If we can do all this, then I hope that our parishes will grow *(and I would add that if we do this I am sure that it will be unthinkable that a Provincial Health Officer would ever again consider shutting our churches while leaving our pubs open!)*

We have a lot of work to do!





## Thank You to the District of Sparwood

During the storms one of the trees behind the house in Sparwood fell down, or at least, fell over. It didn't fall down because it ended up leaning against some other trees. This was fortunate because it meant that it didn't fall on the house. If it had hit the house it probably would have only been the very top that would have made contact, but all the same, that is something we didn't need. As the bottom of the tree was on the Districts land they came and removed the tree. The team arrived at 1:20pm, the roots of the tree were removed by 1:30pm, the tree was cut up and removed by 1:50pm, and then two workers tidied everything up so there was not one branch left, absolutely no sign that anything had happened, and that was all within an hour. Their care and thoroughness really does need to be acknowledged and praised. So thank you to that team and to the District.



## A Humbling Week

I know that a number of people in Fernie had their basements flooded out during this week's storm, and that must be dreadful. And while not minimising this,

I thought I would just share with you my couple of mishaps of the last seven days.

Last week we recorded the Remembrance Day events up at the cemetery, but during the Zoom broadcast someone started to 'screen share' so we lost the pictures of the service for two minutes. When putting the recording together for the Legion I thought that I would overlay some other pictures during this two minutes, and what I chose was shots of the statue of the soldier in front of the Courthouse in Fernie with the drape of poppies over his shoulder. As I was filming this with my drone a gust of wind came, and I had to go over and pick up the many broken pieces of my drone now scattered over the concrete base to the statue. I do have 'drone insurance' so hopefully all will be well.

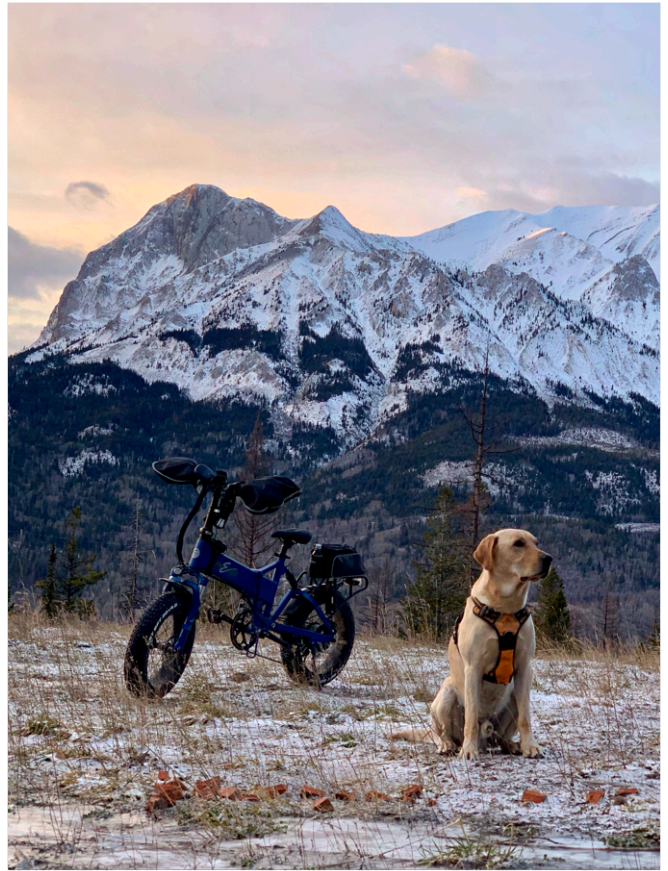
Then today (Thursday) Dawson Peebles from Sparwood e-mailed me to say that there was a really interesting live webinar this afternoon about calligraphy and art in sacred texts. I wanted to watch this, but Thumper also needed a walk and I was pressed for time, so I got my earphones out and strapped my phone to the handle bars of the bike with a bungee cord, then I watched this webinar as I cycled along.

All went very well until I hit some ice next to a river, and suddenly I was standing up to my knees in freezing water and my phone was gone! All I could think was, “God, you know that along with my drone, my iPhone is my other favourite bit of kit!” Although it was freezing I had to take some clothes off and go paddling in the fast flowing muddy water and search for my phone. I did recover it, and God is good, (and iPhones are now waterproof); and as I turned it on it took me straight back to the webinar, and the speaker was talking about the mistakes he had made in his work and the need for humility in all he did. Okay, God, what are you saying to me?

### **And Finally...**

It is not just that Thumper is very pretty, it is also that he manages to be so photogenic. Now I need to work on stopping him jumping up at people and trying to give them a kiss!

With prayers, *Fr. David & Thumper*



Our churches are open to those *without* any Covid symptoms.  
**But Covid is in the population – thus 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](mailto:info@holyfamilyfernie.ca)

[ElkValleyRC@gmail.com](mailto:ElkValleyRC@gmail.com)

### Audio Only

*Don't forget, even if you drop your phone in a river, if it still works then 'church' is there and available. So if you don't have access to the internet you can still listen to Mass wherever you are 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 "1A - 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 at all times, always think of the good of others. As you move about in church 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.**

