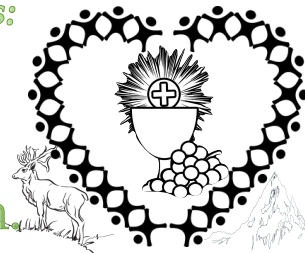


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

**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).*

29th/30th January 2022

**Dear All,**

This might look a bit like a Plymouth Diocesan publication rather than a Canadian one, so apologies in advance for that, but here are a couple of interesting things that have come our way from across the pond.

**Synodal Journey** – that is now regularly being called “**Walking Together**”

*This week I received the following from the ‘Diocesan Synodal Working Group’ back in my home diocese:*

We want to send a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to send in feedback over the Christmas and New Year period. We have now received contributions from parishes, schools, Universities, other groups and individuals. We are particularly grateful to our facilitators who have worked hard to offer a range of opportunities for participation across the Diocese. If you have any questions please contact: [synodfeedback@predtr.org.uk](mailto:synodfeedback@predtr.org.uk)

### ***Feedback and Next Steps***

We have so far received over 300 separate pieces of feedback from schools, parish groups, University groups, youth groups and individuals. We are grateful that so many people took part in the Advent Synodal Journey and that others are continuing their journey in January and February. We know that the feeling of being rushed has been frustrating for so many of you, but we wanted to take the opportunity to get as much feedback as possible to send forward to the Bishops’ Conference. We are very grateful to everyone and in particular for the hard work of all the facilitators.

The Diocesan Synodal working group met on 22nd January to review feedback received so far and to start to prepare materials for our Pre-Synodal meetings in February and March. Feedback received after 22nd January will still be integrated into our final Diocesan Synthesis but we would like to have most contributions by mid February if possible. Please let us know if this presents a problem for any of you.

Bishops are invited to convoke a pre-synodal meeting to culminate the diocesan phase. This gathering should have wide representation from across each of the dioceses with the aim of coming together to pray, listen, reflect, and discern the synodal path along which God’s Spirit is calling the whole diocese.

*These events are not the end of the journey but another step along the road. 'This kind of discernment is not only a one-time exercise, but ultimately a way of life, grounded in Christ, following the lead of the Holy Spirit, living for the greater glory of God. Communal discernment helps to build flourishing and resilient communities for the mission of the Church today.'* (Vatican guidance)

January 2022 Synodal Update

## Looking Forward to Lent

I am so delighted to be able to tell you that this year again we will be having a series of Lent Talks broadcast via Zoom. I was so impressed with the talks that we had last year and I think everyone who was part of these talks appreciated their breadth and quality. Fr Mark from Britain (who is a hero) has again done all the hard work and brought five speakers together.

I will give full details nearer the time, but these talks will be from 12noon to 1:30pm (Mountain Time) on the last four Thursdays in March and on the first Thursday in April. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March and there is no talk that week, but after that they will run from Thursday 10th March to Thursday 7th April. So make sure your Thursday lunchtimes are free during Lent.

I really am so please that Fr. Mark has arranged this as last year it was something that was easy to do during Lent yet it gave me a lot to think about, from how a prison chaplain celebrates Easter to Italian art!

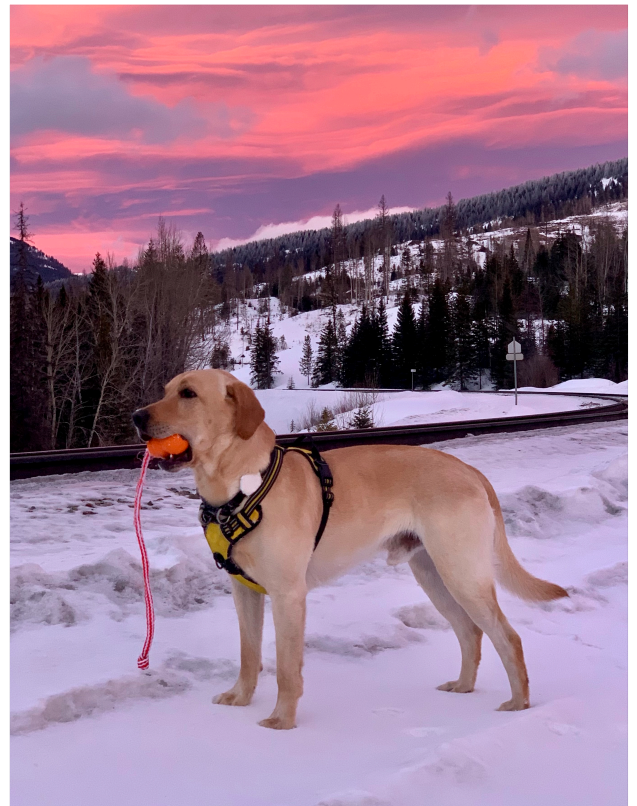
## And Finally...

As yet I have no ideas for a weekly video, but as we have a good piano player in Fernie and Greg leading us in song in Sparwood, I won't go out and film something just for the sake of it; instead we can sing our way into Mass as we should do. And in future weeks, if Thumper decides to show off and display some great skill, or if some wild animal presents themselves before me when I have my phone out, then I will certainly try to capture that, but I don't want to be a slave to this – better I put the time in to making the sermon a bit tighter [aka shorter].

With prayers,

*Fr. David @ Thumper*

*Right – Thumper with his much loved 'Kong-on-a-string' toy just as the sun goes down.*



Our churches are open to those *without* any Covid symptoms.  
**But Covid is still a real threat – thus caution is needed!**



## Zoom Links – To Our Weekend Masses

### 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 are on a long road trip and singing yourself hoarse as you drive, but you don't have internet access, you can still listen to Mass 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.***

