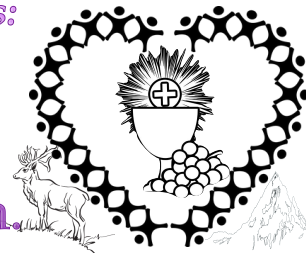


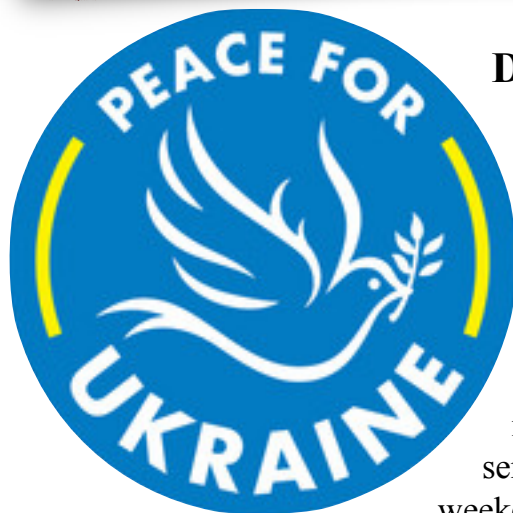
Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

2nd/3rd April 2022



Dear All,

Just a very short and functional weekly e-mail. I am away this week for a funeral so am writing this on Tuesday.

This Weekend – Deacon Stephen

I want to say how grateful I am to Deacon Stephen for agreeing to come over and preach this weekend; I have been so busy that I haven't even had time to look at the readings. Now that isn't *quite* true as at our reconciliation service on Monday we took the readings for this coming weekend's Masses as our scripture readings. Very particularly, we took the second reading from this weekend, the reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians (Philippians 3:8-14) as penance that everyone received. I think this is a most beautiful reading,

*I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh
the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For him I have accepted the loss of everything,
and I look on everything as so much rubbish
if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him.*

This was the second reading at my priestly ordination, which was read by a very good friend of mine, Annie. And I think this reading really sums up our Lenten journey; not just an attempt to become more holy, not simply a time when we try to give up bad habits and take on new and better ways of living, but first and foremost a time when we try to grow in our relationship with Christ.

Thank you to all those who turned up on Monday, we had a good crowd present.

Confessions for Easter

On the subject of Confessions and Deacon Stephen: with Deacon Stephen with us I will be able to hear confessions after each of the Masses this weekend, and we will get Deacon Stephen to give out Communion to those who turn up in their vehicles.

There is also a reconciliation service in Cranbrook this Wednesday, 6th April, at 7pm. So if you are due for a trip to Walmart, you can do that and at the same time confess any shopaholic tendencies that you might have!

New Covid Restrictions

There was an interesting exchange on the radio this week between British politicians. One was saying that we are moving too fast with the relaxing of the covid restrictions, and said something long the lines of,

If masks are no longer compulsory and if there isn't free covid tests for people, what are we to do if the person next to us is coughing or sneezing – there is no way to know if they have covid or not!

The reply was simple,

If someone next to you is coughing and sneezing, they might have a whole variety of infectious diseases, so firstly they shouldn't be coming into close contact with others, and secondly, they should be trying to protect those around them from whatever disease they have – covid or anything else.

My guess is that this will be the new reality, that the issue is not just about Covid, rather we need to have a heightened awareness about the spread of any infectious diseases. Covid isn't going to go away, and there will be other diseases coming along from time to time, so awareness of what germs we might be carrying will be part of our lives. And as Christians, this will be one way that we can show our care for our neighbour.

Other Issues – Lenten Talk Series

Just one talk left, and we will be finishing with a real 'heavy weight'. I have included at the end a short biography for Professor Anthony Towey, this week's speaker. If you have any theological questions, he is the one to answer them. The talk is on Thursday at 12noon with the link opening fifteen minutes before this. The full details are presented at the end of this e-mail.

And Finally...

As I have been away this week I haven't had much time to take photos, but here is one showing Thumper, the daffodils already out in the Lower Mainland, and a 'warm and wet' Vancouver sky.

With prayers,

Fr. David @ Thumper



Advert from the 1918-20 Spanish Flu pandemic



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

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Audio Only

Don't forget, if you don't have the internet but have a phone 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 if you wish and 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.



Lent Talk Details

As mentioned above, the last talk of our Lenten series will be at 12noon. The talk will last for about forty-five minutes with questions to follow. The Zoom link will be active fifteen minutes before the start of each talk.

To get the link to our Lenten series of talks 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

12noon Mountain Time on:

Thursday 7th April – Prof. Anthony Towey, *(pictured right)* director of the ‘Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy’ at St. Mary’s University in London, England.



Biography for Prof. Anthony Towey

Currently Director of the Aquinas Centre for Theological Literacy at St. Mary’s University in London, England, Anthony is active in research and resourcing across a wide range of topic areas encompassing Catholic education, theology, philosophy, ethics and ministry.

His first degree was in International Development at the London School of Economics. He then studied Philosophy, Theology and post-graduate Biblical Studies at the Gregorian University in Rome before completing a PhD there on the Eucharistic thought of Thomas Aquinas. He has served as Academic Tutor at the Venerable English College, Head of RE at Loreto College, Manchester and Head of Theology, Philosophy and History at St. Mary’s University.

He acts as a consultant for the Bishops’ Conference on Inter-Faith & Humanist Dialogue and is part of an academic group advising on the new Religious Education Curriculum. A regular speaker at conferences and retreats, he is also editor of the Pastoral Review a quarterly journal for those engaged in ministry and education.

The Schedule for Holy Week

Maundy Services:

Sparwood – Wednesday 13th April at 7pm

Fernie – Thursday 14th April at 7pm

Good Friday Services:

Sparwood – Friday 15th April at 12noon

Fernie – Friday 15th April at 3pm

Easter Saturday Night:

Fernie – Saturday 16th April at 5pm

Easter Sunday:

Sparwood – Sunday 17th April at 9am

Elkford – Sunday 17th April at 4pm

All the Sparwood and Fernie Masses will be available via Zoom. And while it is difficult to wash your feet while you are in your vehicles, we will be making Communion available after these services.

