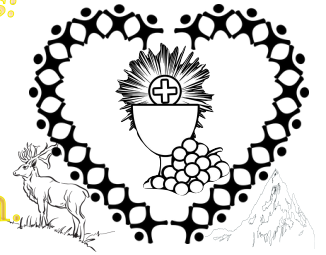


*Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

**Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,  
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,  
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.**



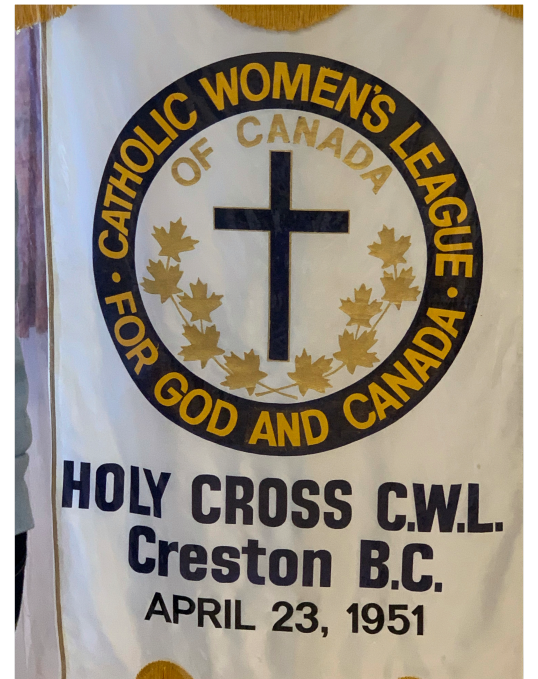
*The Sunday Mass is broadcast via Zoom from Fernie & Sparwood (see below).*

7th/8th May 2022

**Dear All,**

Firstly, very many thanks to all who helped out with the Bishop's visit last week. Whether you were with us in person or joined us on line, I hope you felt part of what seemed to many of us to be a really blessed weekend.

I am writing this straight after the weekend as I will soon be off to the Catholic Women's League Diocesan Convention in Creston, and will only return just in time for our first Mass of Sunday in Fernie on Saturday evening.



### **First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to the youngsters in Sparwood who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this Sunday morning – and to Nick who received it last Sunday. Those joining us on-line will be able to be part of this celebration via Zoom.

*(And as I am away playing CWL this week, I am hoping that the excitement of First Holy Communion will mean that no one will really want much of a sermon!)*



### **Mother's Day (or is it Mothers' Day?)**

To all mothers on the day we celebrate you all (Mothers' Day) and to each and every mother on your special day which is especially for you (Mother's Day), and basically, to Mums, mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, and all those who fulfil that role, we do wish you a good Mother's Day and we include you in our prayers this weekend.

*(It's okay, I remembered to send Mother a Mother's Day card, so all is well; and Mother, if it hasn't arrived it has been in the post for more than a week!)*



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### **Bishop Mark O'Toole – Fr. David's Bishop in England**

Many of you are familiar with Bishop Mark from his messages and videos to us; the big news this week is that Bishop Mark is to become an Archbishop.

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Mark to be the next Archbishop of the Cardiff Diocese and also the next Bishop of the diocese of Menevia, so effectively he will cover the whole of the southern half of Wales (with a little bit of England). This is exciting news, but it comes with mixed emotions. Thus while I am pleased for Bp. Mark and for Wales, I personally am very sad to be losing the faith-filled and fatherly leadership that Bp. Mark has provided over the last nine years.

Bishop Mark will be installed as Archbishop on 20th June, but effectively his role as Bishop of Plymouth has now ended as almost all his time will be taken up with preparing for his new ministry. This means that in the Plymouth Diocese we will have to wait for the appointment of a new Bishop. Sometimes this happens fairly quickly, but at the moment as Plymouth diocese is functioning effectively and there is no particular crisis, it could take six months, a year or even longer. Be sure that I will let you know if there is any news. In the meantime, please remember Bp. Mark in your prayers, and also please pray for the Diocese of Plymouth and whoever will be appointed as our next leader.

*"I express my heartfelt gratitude to all in the Diocese of Plymouth. You have taught me what it is to be a bishop. I will leave with many happy memories, and with sadness too, in saying farewell to good friends. Thank you for the love you have shown me these past eight years. It strengthens me as I face this new opportunity, and I am sure you will be praying for me.*

*When I first became bishop, I chose the motto, "Into your hands, Lord". It is a prayer I have had cause to make many times in recent days... For it is in the Lord, as His missionary disciples, that we find our deepest identity. It is for Him that we set out afresh, to deepen our love for Him, and to bring others to Him." Archbishop Elect, Mark O'Toole*



*One of the priests of our diocese said that a bishop was a bit like a pair of boots:  
they need to be broken in because at first they can rub a bit,  
but then over time they become more comfortable  
and as they grow older you really don't want to change them.*



## And Finally...

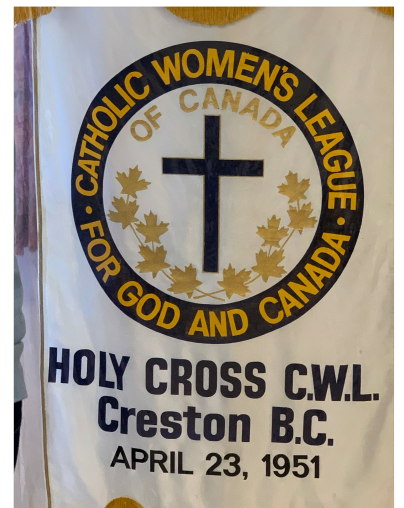
As I am writing this before the start of the Catholic Women's League Diocesan Convention in Creston, I can't tell you how it went, but I can tell you that I did manage to get some curly fries from Creston's fish & chip shop.

With prayers,

*Fr. David @ Thumper*

## Stop Press

I deliberately left room at the end here so I could insert a couple of pictures of the CWL convention. Now don't get too excited, I know that a good picture of Thumper would be more appreciated, but below we have Fr. Neil at the opening Mass, and right is the Creston CWL banner. More people will turn up for the Friday sessions.



*Thumper  
Picture*



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 Sunday Masses

### Link to Our Sunday Masses

To get the link to our two weekend Masses and to our Holy Week services please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

[info@holyfamillyfernie.ca](mailto:info@holyfamillyfernie.ca)

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







*Thumper on Wednesday so pleased to be out in the bush in the camper – and with a stick!*