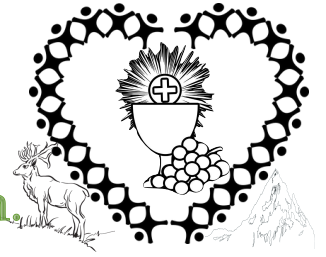


Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

**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).



The view I had over the mountains from my Covid hideaway.

6th/7th August 2022



Dear All,

This week in preparation for my weekly visit to Rocky Mountain Village I had another Covid test and again tested positive. Apparently my ‘viral load’ is much less, but I still have the virus. So this weekend and next Fr. Marian is stepping in and will celebrate the weekend Masses in the Elk Valley. I am so grateful to Fr. Marian for this. Thus all the Masses will continue as normal, except that none of them will be broadcast via Zoom.

No Zoom broadcasts until weekend 20th/21st August

I am conscious that for some who join us via Zoom it is an important link, not just with a Sunday Mass but very particularly to the local community. I remember going to a presbytery somewhere that had a television and finding a weekday Mass broadcast each morning, but after a few times of watching it I discovered that although it looked like a live broadcast it had actually been recorded a week before. If on occasions the celebrant ran slightly too long on the Mass then it would be edited with a few moments taken out during the offertory or a minute or two at the end of Communion, or even the few seconds it took for the priest to get to the lectern to read the gospel. Suddenly it wasn't the same! So I do apologise to the people who normally join us at the weekend for this break of two weeks. Hopefully we will be back to normal soon.

Considering how busy I was last week it is not too surprising that I am taking a little longer to heal. At first I just felt tired – *which was fairly easy to ignore and battle on* – but this weekend I am really trying to do less and make sure I shake off this bug. Apparently others have found that the latest variant of Covid does stick around a bit longer, so I hope others will also take care and look after themselves.

Many Thanks – the Kids Amaze!

On the subject of last week, one of the reasons I was busy was that a number of people who normally step in and do things when I am not about were also away. Particularly when it came to setting up the Zoom in Sparwood, I was stuck! But our two altar servers – with the guidance of their Mum – did a magnificent job of getting everything ready. Indeed, they made it look so easy and nothing to get excited about, but I have to say that for most people it would have been a ‘big deal’. So many thanks to Jaxen and Ryan and their mum Marina and also Linken.

Also thank you to all the others who stepped in and helped out in different ways.



Have mobile altar, will travel! This is how I celebrated Mass last weekend.

The Coming Weeks

This week we have a few more funeral services. One is for Micheal, a thirty year old father of two from Sparwood. Another is a private service for a couple from Fernie, Gloria and Lorne, who died just eleven days apart. Our prayers are obviously with these families as both are particularly sad situations.

Also those who join us on Sunday morning will know Greg who regularly leads us in our singing; his mother Donna died just before Christmas but due to the restrictions at that time they couldn't have the full funeral service, so she will have a funeral Mass this week. I mention this so our prayers can be with Greg and his family, but also because it reminds me that so many people died during Covid and couldn't have the full funeral rites at the time. I am really pleased that some of these 'delayed' funerals are taking place as I do believe that they have both a spiritual and a psychological value when it comes to healing after a loss.

At the end of the week I will be off to Kelowna for the Catholic Women's League National Convention. We start with our pre-gatherings on Friday and run through to the following Thursday. So I will be back in the parish very late on Friday 19th August. We do keep the Catholic Women's League of Canada in our prayers as they gather nationally for the first time in three years.

No Weekly E-mail Next Week

As well as no Zoom broadcasts, next week I really don't think I will have time to get a weekly e-mail produced. No promises but I will try to produce something for the following week, but I will have to write this during the CWL convention, so don't expect more than the absolute minimum.

A Daisy

Right is a picture of a daisy I saw while out walking Thumper. If you look closely you can see that it just has normal petals, one of which is slightly bent over, but step back and it looks like a bird, or perhaps even the Holy Spirit. I don't know why but this simple little flower lifted my spirits, almost as if God was saying, "I am with you."



And Finally...

I was on a conference call this morning with a number of priests and others back in Britain. Just as part of the "and what have you done recently" warm up time I mentioned that I had celebrated Mass outside when it was 35°C, but I added that at Christmas two years ago I celebrated a Mass outside when it was minus 16°C, so that is a difference of more than 50°C! There aren't that many countries in the world where that would be possible; life in Canada really is a rich experience.

This last week Thumper had an answer to all the warm weather, and that was to sit under the truck in the shade. One evening he did comment to me that we really should have brought our small mobile barbecue with us.

With prayers, *Fr. David @ Thumper*



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

The next Zoom broadcasts will be:

5pm on Saturday 20th August

and

9am on Sunday 21st August

*But our Sunday Masses in Church are unaltered
with Fr. Marian presiding.*

To get the link to our two weekend Masses when they start up again in two weeks time, 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

