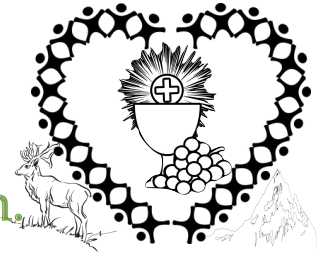


*Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:*

*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 from the hotel in Kelowna...*

*(or at least, the view from the Bishop's room – my room looked north over the parkade).*

*20th/21st August 2022*

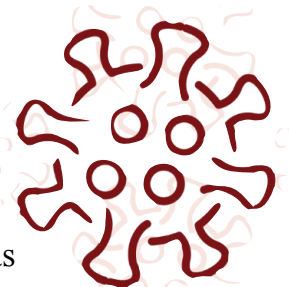
**Dear All,**

So much to say and so little time. It is 11:30pm on Thursday and I have just got back from the CWL National Convention in Kelowna. While Kelowna might be slightly less than eight hours drive according to google, with the time zones I lost an hour coming back, I had to fill up with fuel once and coffee twice, and I had to do some food shopping as I knew the fridge at home was empty, plus after eight hours of driving Thumper deserved a decent walk. So add all those together and I left at eleven this morning and got back just after eleven this evening.

So here I am, back at base with very little time to write this weekly e-mail. What I will do is mention Covid – *which to be honest, I had forgotten about* – and then Thumper's holiday, and then the CWL convention.

***Covid***

During the CWL convention we were so busy that I turned my phone off for a few days, but when I turned it on again today there were a number of messages asking if I was okay and had covid taken me out! No, I am now fine. And indeed I might almost say that my bout of covid was a blessing in some ways. When I was exposed to covid I was



very tired and I think I was probably a bit run down, and that is why it hit me harder than expected. For my first week of covid, from my self-isolation I continued to work just as I normally do, but with meetings being via Zoom rather than in person. As a result I didn't get better particularly quickly. So I then turned all my electronics off and had four days of forcing myself to rest. I so needed this.

If I *hadn't* had covid I would have continued on as normal and would have arrived at the CWL convention exhausted! Also, I would have been worried during the convention that I might pick up covid and bring it back to the parish, but having had it, this was no longer likely. So getting covid when I did meant I was rested so could fully participate in the CWL convention, which was indeed a gift!

### ***Thumper***

During the convention Thumper went into kennels in Kelowna. They were very nice air conditioned kennels where he had lots and lots of friends to play with all day. This was the first time we had been parted since he was a puppy; you do not know how hard it was for me to resist the temptation to e-mail the kennels each day saying, "Is he okay? Is he being a good boy? Is he happy?" I don't know how much he missed me but I so much missed him!

Since I have got him back he is acting as if nothing has happened – he is not being 'clingy' nor is he upset with me; for Thumper it is just another day!

I have to say, I think he looks a little thinner, which might indicate that he has had a lot of exercise playing with the other dogs. While he was in the kennels I took his harness off him, and that might also make him look a bit thinner.



*After a good run Thumper is keeping cool on the stone floor. I took his harness off him while he was in the kennels.*

### ***CWL's 102nd National Convention***

My plan had been to include here a summary of what we did during the week with a few photos, but we did so much that it is hard to summarise. Also we had a professional photographer at the convention who has taken some really good photographs. So rather than trying to rush a summary, I will wait until I have a bit more time and a few more photos, and then in a week or two I will put that with the weekly e-mail as a separate item.



So here I will just give you some of the trivia from the week. Due to commitments in the parish I had to drive overnight to get to the convention in Kelowna, so Thumper and I had a sleep in the car, which Thumper loves (*see next page*).

We arrived in Kelowna to a magnificent thunderstorm, no rain just a lot of lightning; it was quite a dramatic welcome to the convention week (*right*).

Before the convention started and all the delegates arrived we did have some pre-meetings with the CWL executive, and with these meetings there were also meals, and the menu at the first official supper on Friday was so posh that, because of my allergies, there was nothing on it that I could actually eat! But I didn't lose out. Now forget having friends in high places, it is having friends in the kitchen that is crucial at moments like this, so instead of all that fancy stuff I got a gorgeous poutine (*below left*), and as it was a Friday the meat-free gravy was made with champagne mushrooms.

Then on Saturday morning I was fortunate enough to join Bp. Stephen, the National Spiritual Advisor, and the CWL National Executive for Mass and breakfast (*below right*). At this point, to me the convention was looking really promising!

I really enjoyed the convention; I so wish that all CWL members from every parish could have been there to experience the atmosphere. While I thought that the guest speaker, Barbara Dowding, was excellent, and a lot of the other presentations were interesting and thought provoking, that was not primarily what I remember or what left me with such a positive impression, it was everything else!



*Top: camping overnight in the vehicle  
Below: lightning display above Kelowna*



*Left: Poutine instead of eggplant in maple syrup!  
Above: a mountain of bacon and sausages – wonderful.*

*Let's put it this way:* I did the first 'welcome' at the opening Mass, and although I had been asked to do this ages ago, I had forgotten, consequently I had just five minutes to put my words together! Because of this I was paranoid that I would again suddenly be asked to say something at the closing Mass, so just in case I roughed out a very short speech, but in the end it wasn't needed. Here is what I would have said to the ladies of the 102nd National Convention of the CWL:

*Last night I was talking to one of the technicians who was running the audio/visual equipment that was a big part of the convention. I asked him what he saw as he looked out from his mixing desk at all these women. We then had a long conversation which was more about the Church and the CWL in general than specifically about the convention. He was a young man so he was obviously reluctant to be too enthusiastic about a group of ladies – who were mostly his mother's age – at a big church event. But I hope, I really hope, that when he went home and talked to his partner, he said,*

*“This week we had a group of people in the hotel who so clearly  
loved each other and had a great sense of fraternity;  
a group of people who so loved life  
and through this had a love for so many other things;  
a group of people who loved, they just loved!”*

*And if he didn't say this to his partner, then when I pick up Thumper from the kennels, I will say it to him!*

## And Finally...

While I was self isolating I couldn't be in the presbytery as Fr. Marian was there, so I took my camper and parked nice and high up in the mountains to assure cool nights so I could sleep (*below*). The presbytery is horribly hot at this time of year, thus being in the camper really helped me get the sleep and regeneration I needed.

With prayers,

*Fr. David  
& Thumper*

*Okay, just one picture from the  
convention – some of us in the bar!*



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 please send an e-mail to one of our parish offices with your name and you will then receive the link each week.

[info@hollyfamilyfernie.ca](mailto:info@hollyfamilyfernie.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.*

### 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.*

### Those who are attending church in person, **be careful:**

Covid is everywhere and people still have vulnerabilities. Therefore please continue to be careful when you are in church and continue to 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, so please be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about.

***Everyone still needs to be careful.***

