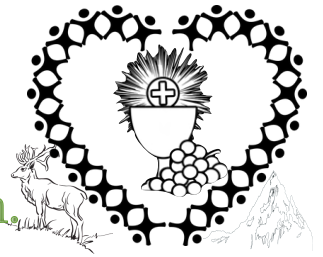


Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

3-22
2022
2022
2022

24th/25th September 2022

Dear All,

I really didn't mean to start this week's e-mail by mentioning the Queen, but I have to say, I found the events around her death, and very particularly her funeral, very moving and even a point of reflection about myself and my upbringing.

We live in a world that is waiting for the first rocket to launch in a series of test that will eventually put people back onto the moon, and a number of companies have taken the ultra high-tech Teslas and converted them into hearses (funeral coaches), *see below*, yet at the Queen's funeral, our new King along with his siblings and sons, walked to the church behind the coffin carried on a gun carriage from the late 1800's. The carriage was not electrically driven, nor did it have an internal combustion engine, it was not even pulled by horses, but rather it was manually pulled with ropes by 98 guardsmen. For me, this was an incredible statement.



Another hallmark of Britishness that I think came to the fore was the attention to detail at the funeral. While the flower arrangement on top of the coffin came from three of the royal estates, and each flower had some significance, I was struck by the fact that all the flowers that the public had left outside the Queen's residence were carefully gathered up and laid out along the side of the route that the coffin took.



The Queen's pony, Emma, and two of the Queen's corgis, Muick and Sandy (*right*), were also lining the route.

Obviously for the service the Abbey was filled with 'the great and the good', but anyone and everyone had been filing passed the Queen's coffin as it laid in state, and large crowds lined the route of her funeral procession. I do think that it was so many of the small details that revealed how Britain sees itself and what we hold as important. Oddly, watching the funeral I felt reassured; we weren't putting on a show we were doing what needed to be done.

Bishop Mark (now Archbishop), my bishop in Britain, was also in the Abbey for the funeral as one of the three church leaders representing the churches in Wales.



Listen to the Voice of Creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush

Ex 3, 1-12

Diocese of Plymouth Environmental Policy

This weekend at the Sunday Masses we will be including special prayers for the environment and for our whole relationship with the natural world. Here in the Elk Valley we have nature in abundance, and not only that, but we have mountains, the most beautiful expression of nature (along with fiords!). And as the colours change from summer to autumn it is even more beautiful.

This week I said that I would include the policy document on the environment from my home diocese, and this is attached at the end of this e-mail. It is only just over six hundred words long, so easily readable.

I present this policy so that we can look at what we are doing and see how we as a parish are caring for the environment. I so often fear that lots of lovely, good hearted people are trying to do their bit to save the planet by not letting the hot water tap run while they brush their teeth or by recycling as much as they can, and then within our control another decision is made that goes in totally the opposite direction and more than wipes out whatever good parishioners have done.

An example of this was when I had Covid. I wasn't able to celebrate the weekend Masses and sadly Deacon Stephen also wasn't available after his bike accident. So from Kelowna we got the message that another permanent deacon was available to come to the parish for the weekend, but he lived in Penticton. Penticton to Sparwood to Fernie, back to Sparwood, to Elkford and back to Penticton would have been a 1,400km trip; or to put it another way, a trip that would have put about a quarter of a ton of CO₂ into the environment; so I asked if it was morally justified to produce that much pollution and use so much of our natural resources to bring in this deacon to the parish for a weekend? I got zero response because I think that we, as a church, aren't even close to thinking in these terms.

And just in case you think that caring for the environment and the making of environmentally friendly policies is another cost that we have to take on, I should point out that *not* having a deacon drive over from Penticton for the weekend also *saved* the parish something over \$1,500!

In Britain our diocese has gone to one of the big energy suppliers who focus on renewable energy generation, and through bundling together many of the diocesan



The tree outside Rocky Mountain Village in Fernie.

properties they have managed to negotiate a rate for electricity that is about five percent *below* the market rate. So going green does not inevitably mean paying more, either for us individually or for us as an organisation.

Often it is simply a change in mind-set that is the biggest hurdle we have to jump!

I have to tell you a story about ‘change in mind-set’: A number of months ago I was in the Volkswagen dealership in Cranbrook having my car serviced. While there I asked about the new all electric vehicle that VW is selling in Canada – the ID4. I was told that this vehicle would initially only be sold in the larger centres and Cranbrook wouldn’t be getting them any time soon. This was quite a disappointment. I then went and sat down at a table to get on with some work. As I sat there I heard the two sales staff talking about electric vehicles, and their conversation was totally negative. It was basically along the lines of, ‘EVs will never work out here in rural Canada; I can’t see electric vehicles ever being of any use to us.’ Here were car salespersons and they couldn’t see any use of electric vehicles in our area! I was amazed, and also slightly upset.

By chance I had been looking at my mileage records. For tax purposes I keep track of every trip I make in my Volkswagen. Before the pandemic I used to do something like 38,000km in my car each year. To put this in context, according to ‘Natural Resources Canada’ the average B.C. light vehicle only travels 13,100km per year, which is less than the Canadian average of 15,200km. So you can say that I drive a lot, almost three times the province’s average, yet I was so surprised when I broke down these figures to see how far I drove on the average day.

In 2019 I made three major trips away from the Valley when I was gone for a week or more. But putting these trips aside, here is the data for the distances I travelled on all my other local trips, that is, around the Valley and as far as Calgary or Nelson. There were only,

- 25 days when I did over 100km in a day,
- only 5 of those 25 days were over 300km, and
- only 3 of these 5 days were over 400km.

So apart from the longer trips – *which I will come on to* – if I had had an EV with a range of 300km, then there would have only been five times I would have needed to recharge it away from base; with a range of 400km, then that number drops to three times in the year. Currently the leading EVs have a range of well over 500km, so even allowing for cold weather and other issues, there would have been *very* few times I would have needed to stop and recharge the car.

After seeing these figures I started thinking about the longer journeys, so the next time I drove down to see my family in the Lower Mainland I looked to see where the charging stations were. My trip to my brother’s house is 920km or ten-and-a-half hours of driving. While an EV with a range of over 500km might be able to do that distance with just one stop, more realistically one would need to add in the time it would take to make two stops for recharging, but against this, one wouldn’t need to stop for gas which I usually do twice on the trip. Also I stop once or twice for coffee, and I stop to give Thumper a walk a couple of times. Often I stop in Trail (if the Colander Restaurant is open), Osoyoos as there is a Tim Hortons there, and often just before Hope as there is a big rest stop there that is very quiet and where Thumper can have a good run. And would you believe it, there are EV charging stations at (or very close to) all the places I normally stop.

What I don't know is the speed of recharging, I think you would have to live with an EV to truly know this. But if I stop for coffee (and a pee) and give Thumper a bit of a walk, that takes at least half an hour. Websites say that a 150KW 'rapid' charger will give an extra 320km of range in that time, and many chargers are now 250KW and speeds are increasing all the time. So losing the two ten minute stops for gas, would my travel time increase significantly? I am not sure it would.

So back to me sitting in the VW dealership. I went up to the two salespersons and challenged them with these figures, and then I talked about the differences that one might experience driving an EV.

- If one plugs in an EV at home one starts every day with a 'full tank'. Currently I try to only fill my vehicle once a week, and as I often wait for the 5cents per litre discount given on a Thursday or Friday evenings in Sparwood, that inevitably means queueing for a pump. That would be gone, so most weeks I would actually spend *less time* 'refuelling'.
- This last summer I often wanted to quickly pop into a store but decided not to as I had Thumper in the vehicle and I didn't want to leave him in a car in the heat. In my VW I can't leave the engine running and lock the doors, but many EVs have "Pet Mode" where you can leave your car locked yet still keep the air conditioning running for your dog, or indeed in winter, the heater running. Now Thumper thinks that would be great!

I told the sales persons that I had quoted these two small differences just to say that like the switch from horses to internal combustion engines, there were differences – *advantages and disadvantages* – the challenge was to see the big picture. Currently the 'big picture' for EVs in rural areas is not perfect, but it is interesting to see the possibilities out there.

I am not sure that the 'mind-set' of these salespersons was yet ready to start thinking around the differences between EVs and gas vehicles. Looking slightly embarrassed at my onslaught, one of the salespersons asked, "But how much does the electricity cost? Electricity is not cheap." Now I had them! Because, if we believe BC Hydro, the answer is amazing.

- If we take the BC Hydro figures for the small gas engine Chevy Trax versus the similarly sized EV Chevy Bolt, the cost of electricity to charge the vehicle is likely to be something like one seventh of the cost of the gas to drive the same distance. If this is true it would mean that with my high mileage I might save over \$5,000 per year:

38,000km at 8.2litres/100km is 3,116 litres, at the current \$1.89 per litre, is \$5,889.

BC Hydro claim that 38,000km in an efficient mid-sized EV would cost \$800 to charge.

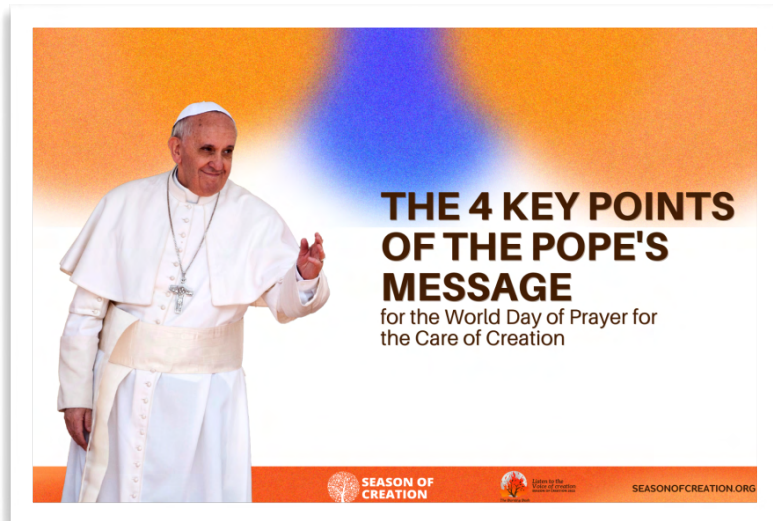


I don't guarantee that all the above is totally correct, and I am sure that there are many other issues to be taken into consideration, not least our severe winters, but the figures are challenging.

Now those who know me will know that nothing gives me more joy than winning an argument about cars, and really if I was to be perfectly honest, I was more upset about the salesperson's negative attitudes to the future than to the specific issue of whether it makes sense for any particular individual to buy an EV or not. Thus I tell this long story to point out that even when something is right under our noses, sometimes we can't see it. Here were people preparing to sell all electric vehicles and they hadn't changed their mind-sets to see the new possibilities. So I was wondering what might be right under our noses? The situation around the Penticton deacon was certainly an example of this. Weather it is driving, walking more, heating the house less, eating food with a lower carbon footprint, or whatever, together we should look forward positively!

So we all have a lot of work to do if we are to respond to what the Pope is asking from us, and like so many things, it will need all of us to work together on this if we, as an organisation, are truly going to change the way we do things, if we are going to have an ‘ecological conversion’. Firstly, many of us might need to do a change-of-mind, only then will any change-in-practice be real and enduring. So if nothing else, our first step must be prayers for ourselves and others, and the Pope’s writings on this issue are a rich source of inspiration for prayer.

I have written far too much on this environmental policy, but I do believe that we as an organisation can not only change, but rejoice as we do so.



Season of Creation

I have ended up writing so much about reducing our carbon footprint that I haven’t left much room for the theme of ‘The Season of Creation’! And there are tons of resources available for this. Here in the Elk Valley this year (*apart from having a very long weekly e-mail about the pros and cons of EVs*) really we won’t be doing much more than including the theme of creation in our prayers of intercession at Mass.

But I will just mention here Pope Francis’ letter for this time of prayer for ‘Care of Creation’. The four key points he makes in his message are:

- ***A Time to Cultivate our Ecological Conversion***

The Pope defines the Season of Creation as “an opportunity to cultivate our ‘ecological conversion’” recalling this concept encouraged by St. Pope John Paul II as a response to the ‘ecological catastrophe’ first mentioned by St. Pope Paul VI as early as 1970.

In this way, he invites all Christians during this time to “pray once more in the great cathedral of creation, and revel in the “grandiose cosmic choir” made up of countless creatures, all singing the praises of God”.

People of faith, says the Pope, feel “even more responsible for acting each day in accordance with the summons to conversion. Nor is that summons simply individual: “the ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion”.

- ***Sweet Song and Bitter Cry***

Listening to creation, the Pope mentions that there is a “kind of dissonance”: “On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home”.

In this regard, the Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement, Tomás Insua, mentioned: “The sweet song of creation is mixed with its bitter cry, as evidenced by the intense heat wave that was experienced this year in much of the northern hemisphere and that, in Spain and Portugal alone, killed more than a thousand people and left five million people without water in Monterrey, Mexico”.

Pope Francis encourages people to stop consumerism, change lifestyles and harmful systems. All scientific reports prove it and the Pope reaffirms it: “We are reaching ‘a breaking point’” and we must act now. “The crisis is no longer a hypothesis of a distant future but a tangible reality that is costing human lives,” added Tomás.

- ***A Warning Message Ahead of the COPs***

Ahead of the ‘COP 27’ meeting on ‘climate’ (Egypt, November 2022) and the ‘COP 15’ meeting on ‘biodiversity’ (Canada, December 2022), Pope Francis recalls in his message the importance of “promoting the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement”, as recently ratified by the Holy See.

“Each passing moment is an opportunity for everyone, especially world leaders, to reverse the biodiversity and climate crises. Let COP 27 bring forth ambitious commitments to prevent carbon emissions from fossil fuels and support for clean energy transition as well as efficient relief for our brothers and sisters already within the climate crisis. Let COP 15 bring forth a firm commitment to end any more biodiversity collapse”, said Lindlyn Moma, Advocacy Director of the Laudato Si' Movement.

And to the community of Catholics, the Pope calls them to prayer: “In this Season of Creation, let us pray that COP27 and COP15 may unite the human family to decisively address the double crisis of climate and biodiversity reduction”.

- ***Four Key Principles for Biodiversity***

Pope Francis also uses his message to call on nations to halt the further collapse of the “web of life” – biodiversity – pointing to four principles:

- Building a clear ethical basis for the transformation we need in order to save biodiversity;
- Fight biodiversity loss, support its conservation and recovery, and meet people’s needs in a sustainable way;
- Promote global solidarity, taking into account that biodiversity is a global common good that requires a shared commitment;
- Put people in vulnerable situations at the centre, including those most affected by biodiversity loss, such as indigenous peoples, older people and youth.

That is a lot of words and ideas, but the concept is simple: creation is given equally to all people, so we must treat our world as a gift entrusted to us, not a resource that we own and can use as we like. What is more, in the beauty of creation we see a reflection of the beauty of God, so creation has a dignity we are called to honour.

Looking Ahead – Weekend 1st/2nd October

In six days time I will be off to a B.C. & Yukon CWL Provincial Executive meeting in Kelowna, so next weekend, that is the weekend of 1st/2nd October, we will be welcoming Fr. John Kellogg. I am so pleased that Fr. John is able to be with us. Fr. John's health has had its ups and downs, but when I saw him last week he was looking quite well. I know that the parish will give him a warm welcome.

Fr. John has been driving all electric cars from before anyone knew that there were such things, so if you have any questions about EVs, please do ask Fr. John. He now drives a 'plug in hybrid' and I asked him what he thought of it and he said, "I filled it up with gas three weeks ago and it is still full." So I assume he likes it.

No Zoom and No Weekly E-mail on Weekend of 1st/2nd October

Because I will be away the Masses of 1st/2nd October will not be broadcast on Zoom. Also, as our meeting starts on the Thursday and I have to get to Kelowna, I won't even attempt to put together a weekly e-mail for a couple of weeks.

Zoom Masses will resume on the weekend of 8th/9th October, and it probably will be another week after that before these weekly e-mails resume.

Deacon Stephen

I am also please that on the weekend of 8th/9th October Deacon Stephen will be with us again and he will be preaching. This means that I won't have to worry about a sermon while I am away; this is a real gift that Deacon Stephen gives to me.

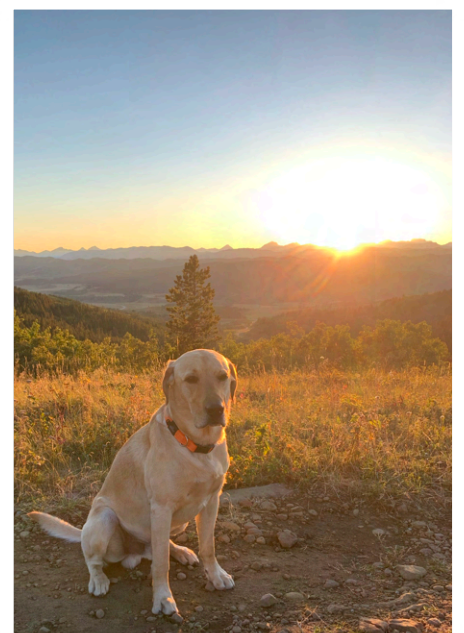
Hopefully everything will be fully back to normal for the weekend of 15th/16th October, and then apart from Fernie CWL celebrating their centenary on the first weekend of November, it should be a fairly smooth ride up to Christmas!

And Finally...

This week Thumper got a new collar. It is orange and the first time he wore it the sun was just setting and bathed him in very red light. So he thought that with the reddish light on his yellow coat, his orange collar looked rather smart.

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

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@holyfamilyfernie.ca

ElkValleyRC@gmail.com

Or if you are reading this as a ‘hard copy’ and would like to receive it electronically each week via e-mail, again drop a note to one of the addresses above.

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.





Diocese of Plymouth Environmental Policy

Our Christian responsibility for the planet begins with appreciation of the goodness of all of God's creation: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good".
(Genesis 1:31)

Pope Francis, through his encyclical letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, has taken a global lead in encouraging every person on the planet to take action and care for the earth – our common home – and preserve it for future generations, thinking and acting in solidarity with those who are poor and suffering. *Laudato Si'* is a call to an 'ecological conversion' inviting each one of us to recognise the connection between our faith, our planet and the most vulnerable people and to take an active role in preserving the gift of life on earth. *Guardians of God's Creation*¹ argues for 'a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church'.

The Diocese of Plymouth environmental policy respects the earth as God's creation and acknowledges that our care for it needs to be integrated into the life and mission of our Diocese. The policy sets out our commitment as a Diocese. The policy is for every person – young and old, parishioner and employee of the Diocese of Plymouth.

Our Commitments

- To pray, study the scriptures, reflect on Catholic tradition and educate ourselves about the interconnectedness of all aspects of our common home in order to develop a spirituality which seeks to understand the effects of our actions on the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world as well as the earth's fragile ecology and the need for economies and lifestyles which reflect God's creation.
- To advocate for and work with people on the margins and people living in poverty since 'a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach;' [integrating] questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #49)

¹ <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/season-of-creation/guardians-of-gods-creation/>

- To ensure the mission of the church locally and on a diocesan level includes proclamation on environmental concerns in line with the living out of the gospel in people’s lives, and exercising the prophetic voice of the church in support of stewardship and appropriate environmental action, such that the views of the church are heard and widely understood. (cf Pope Benedict Caritas in Veritate #51)
- To ensure that our buildings are managed with care for the environment and action plans to reduce negative impacts
- To minimise our use of the earth’s natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint, minimising waste generation, and re-using and recycling when possible.
- To follow ethical purchasing practices and influence our suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods and services procured support the environmental policy and, in turn, that all suppliers and contractors progressively improve their own environmental performance.
- To enhance the biodiversity of all Diocesan-owned grounds and gardens and our schools
- To encourage ecological education in our schools and parishes
- To ensure that our investment policies adhere to ethical guidelines and promote investment for social benefit
- To assess all our activities and operations in order to identify, understand and evaluate all the direct and indirect environmental aspects and priorities action to address them
- To measure and reduce our environmental footprint to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030
- To regularly review and report on our way of working at Diocesan, school and parish level to verify our effectiveness in achieving environmental objectives.

Let us pray for wisdom and courage for the path ahead.

Monitoring

This policy will be monitored annually by a Diocesan Committee² reporting to the Bishop’s Council and Trustees.

Date approved: 28 January 2021

Reviewed: January 2022

Date of next review: January 2023

² *The Committee will be chaired by the Vicar General and include representatives from the Trustees, Schools, Finance and Property and Caritas*