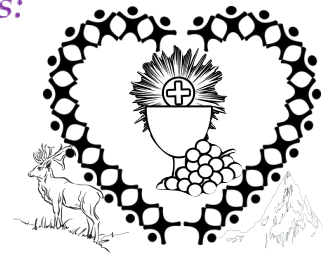


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

4th/5th March 2023

Dear All,

It is Thursday and there is so little in my head! Therefore I will try to keep this short. Apologies as really there are no reflections or thoughts in this week's e-mail, just practical information. But don't worry, there are two pictures of Thumper on the last page.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Catholic Women's League.

This weekend the National Executive of the CWL are meeting in Toronto, so we keep them in our prayers. For the last few years the League has been looking at how it can develop to meet future needs and adapt to our changing society. Those working on this project – including Deacon Stephen's wife, Marjorie – have made a lot of progress and hopefully soon we will be seeing a bright new facet to the CWL shine through our Church, full of hope and still full of love.

After this meeting our Provincial President, Sharon Geiger, will return to B.C. and lead the B.C. and Yukon CWL Executive in their next 'mid-term' meeting. This will be the weekend of 18th/19th March. Then, in turn, the Diocesan CWL Presidents will go from that meeting to their Diocesan Executives, who then feed back to the parishes all that has been discussed.



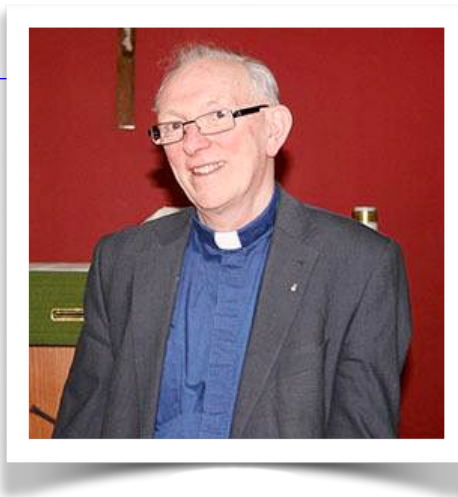
As part of this, I will be away with the Provincial Executive, and while I am away I am delighted to say that Fr. Harry Clarke will be returning for two weekends to the Elk Valley parishes. I notice that there is still a picture of Fr. Harry on the wall in both Sparwood and in Elkford, so clearly he is remembered with affection.

Practicalities of My Being Away

Zoom – firstly, while I am away there will be no Zoom Masses. So for the weekends of 18th/19th and 25th/26th March there will be no Zoom broadcasts. Previously when I have been away I have tried to broadcast from wherever I am, but this time it is not possible, partly because on the first weekend I will be celebrating Mass with Archbishop Michael, the Archbishop of Vancouver.

I am still here until Wednesday 16th March, so I am not disappear just yet!

I am still waiting to hear back from Fr. Harry about how much he will be available to the parishes during the week. He has been in Rome for part of February and I think he has only just arrived back, so we are giving him a few days to settle back and work out what he is doing next. So next week we will be able to say if our Friday Mass in Sparwood will continue while I am away.



What I Will be Doing While I am Away

As well as the CWL Provincial meetings, there are a number of other CWL commitments that I have while I am away. Additionally, when I get back I am leading a training day in Cranbrook. The subject is the Christian Rite of Initiation of Adults (RCIA). I have to admit to be very rusty on this subject, so I will be using a significant chunk of my time away to read up on this and make myself ready to lead this day in Cranbrook. But I do hope to be able to join everyone for our series of Lent talks – *see below for more details.*

I am due back on Friday 31st March, and will go into a really busy time. I will be in Cranbrook on Saturday 1st April, and then that weekend is Palm Sunday weekend. Then on the Monday all the priests of the diocese are off to a Council of Priests meeting in Nelson followed by the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, and that will take us well into Holy Week. So I hope you can see that while I am away I will also be trying to stop and be still for a few moments to check that I am ready to celebrate our most important week of the year. It is so easy to make our complicated Holy Week celebrations into a logistical challenge rather than a spiritual journey, so I hope I will have time to step back and reflect a bit.

And after that... honestly, I am hoping that the snow will have retreated up the mountains and we will be able to say, “It’s camping season!!!”

Lent Talks

Apologies about the mix up and slight technical difficulties at the start of the first Lent talk, hopefully everyone who wanted to join the talk were able to.

I have to say, I had certain distractions during Deacon Anthony’s talk. Firstly a courier arrived to tel me they had lost the package I was expecting – or at least, the contents of the package as they had the box! So my *really, really nice new torch [flashlight]* that I was expecting was missing. The delivery person was both contrite and helpful, but this did mean that I missed the first bit of the talk.

No sooner was I back in my seat but there was another knock on the door – and I wondered if my *really, really nice new torch [flashlight]* had turned up! But no, in the windstorm that we were having a tree in next doors front garden had fallen over. Thankfully, it had fallen away from everything and towards the other neighbour’s front lawn, but it was caught on another tree so needed to be dealt

with. So for much of the rest of the talk I was outside – *listening to the talk through my earphones* – but looking at a tree that was threatening to fall at any moment. And what was the talk on? The beauty of the garden and how it is a gift from God! It was partly based upon Jesus' agony in the garden, and it was very interesting listening to it standing in a garden – even if it was during a windstorm, when it was very cold and trying to deal with a tree that had given up standing but yet wouldn't fall to the ground!

This coming week we have a real treat, Fr. Mark himself is giving the talk. I don't think Fr. Mark has as yet given one of these Lent Talks, so we are in for a gift. I should tell you that Fr. Mark is seriously into poetry, so he won't be reading from the inside of Hallmark greetings cards, rather he is more likely to go to some of the great classical poets, which he loves. I am so looking forward to this.



Thursday 9th March — The Scourging at the Pillar:-
Fr. Mark Skelton – A reflection in Poetry.

Thursday 16th March — The Crowning with Thorns:-
Mr. Francis Harrington – A reflection with Music.

Thursday 23rd March — Jesus carries His Cross:-
Mgr. Robert Draper – A reflection using Scripture.

Thursday 30th March — Jesus dies on the Cross:-
Fr. Jonathan Stewart – A reflection through Art.

To get the link to watch our series of Lenten 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

Other Lent Devotions

Our ***Lent Reconciliation Service*** will be on Monday 13th March – *a week on Monday* – at 6pm in Sparwood. We are hoping that two other priests will join me for this, so with three priests the service should be relatively short!

Again this week there is ***Mass on Friday*** at 11am in Sparwood. It was wonderful that we had so many turn up last week. Don't forget, if there is someone who you know who can't get to our Sunday Mass for whatever reasons, do see if you can invite them – and perhaps even bring them – to this Mass instead.



And Finally...

That is all I have to say, except that we celebrated St. David's day with some cooked leeks (*above*), but sadly my present to myself of a *really, really nice new torch [flashlight]*, didn't arrive!

And on that subject, Thumper says that he isn't too keen on my shining my torch [flashlight] at him. He says that when it is sunny I ask him to look at the sun and smile, and when it is dark I



ask him to look at my torch [flashlight] and smile, neither he likes (*left*). But when he is not having a light shone in his eyes he is more than happy to smile (*above*).

With prayers,
Fr. David @ Thumper

Our churches are open to those *without* any viral symptoms.
But Covid is still a real threat – thus caution is needed!



Zoom Links – To Our ‘Transfigured’ Sunday Masses

(But now without my really, really nice new torch [flashlight], that will be harder!)

Topic: **Second Sunday of Lent**

Date & Time: Saturday – 4th March – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie

Sunday – 5th March – at 9am Mountain Time from Sparwood

To get the link to watch our two weekend Masses via Zoom 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.

Chat:

Feel free to send greeting via the chat when you join our broadcast, and if you are praying for anything particular, do also share this with others.

Those who are attending church in person, be careful:

Covid and other viruses are about and many people have vulnerabilities.

Some people might have vulnerabilities that we don't know about, and at the moment as well as Covid there are other viruses going around – *the normal winter colds* – but this year they might be slightly more problematic because many people haven't been exposed to colds and flu for a few years. So please continue to be careful. If someone wants a bit of space, we have a lot of it in our churches, so please be respectful.



Everyone

still

needs to be careful.