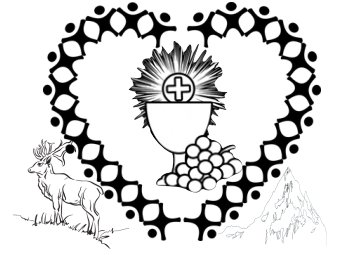


*Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

29th/30th April 2023



Dear All,

In this week's e-mail I just want to touch on the up coming Coronation, and to look at how we, as Christians and – *as is the case with most of the readers of this e-mail* – as Catholics, should see the Coronation. Also as an appendix I will add a prayer for vocations; this weekend – Good Shepherd Sunday – is a day of prayer for vocations.

Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camila

At the Coronation next weekend King Charles will take an oath of office which has three parts. Firstly, he will promise to rule according to laws agreed “in Parliament”; that is to say, the monarch is ruling for the people whose will is expressed through the democratically elected parliament. This is pretty much what one would expect, but the other two promises that he will make I find interesting.

The second promise is to ensure that in all the official judgements that he makes as monarch, Charles not only fulfils “the law and justice”, but he must also show mercy. For me this goes to the heart of what we believe as Christians. We are not called to forget the law and to say, “Anything goes, it doesn't matter, they meant well”, rather we are to uphold values and truths, but not in a self-righteous or arrogant way. We have all gone astray, and God doesn't pretend that we haven't, rather God says that God's love is stronger than our sins. As Christians we are called to go beyond justice to find mercy, and as I understand it, this is part of the Coronation Oath.



On the day of the Coronation the King and Queen will be dressed up in such regalia we might lose sight of the people being crowned! Photo by Hugo Burnand.

The third promise is to maintain the Church of England. The monarch is the head of the Church of England and civil law states that only one who is “in Communion” with the Church of England can become monarch – that was stated in the 1701 Act of Settlement. Yet this is understood in a broad sense. During her Diamond Jubilee celebration in 2012 the late Queen said of her role as the Church of England’s Supreme Governor:

Its role is not to defend Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions. Instead, the Church has a duty to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country.

And more recently Prince Charles stated that he wanted to be seen as a “defender *of* faith” rather than a “defender *of the* faith”.

This statement relates back to 1521 when the Pope conferred the title “Fidei Defensor” upon the British monarch. The title has traditionally been translated as “Defender of the Faith”, but as Latin has no definite article, the then Prince Charles was pointing out that it could equally be translated as “Defender of Faith”. The Prince was making the point that, in countries with very many religions, the sovereign should be concerned to see all religion is defended and not just the Church of England. As we know, so many new laws in Canada seem to be slowly chipping away at Christian’s rite to have their faith defended, so a head of state taking an oath to defend faith is an important act.

I cite this because I think the Coronation will be a long and elaborate ceremony and many will look at it and see the pomp and grandeur of the whole affair and no more. But I think that, as Christians, we should be praying about this; we should be holding King Charles and Queen Camila in our prayers, that they will defend the values of faith in our increasingly secular society, and by the way they use their position, they will remind society of the centrality of mercy.

Mass on Friday 5th May at 11am in Sparwood

The Bishops of England & Wales have asked that in order to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, Catholic communities should pray for the King’s intentions. They have asked that as part of this, on Friday 5th May a Mass for the intentions of the King should be celebrated where possible. So accordingly, I will be celebrating a Mass for King Charles’ intention at St. Michael’s in Sparwood on Friday at 11am. (If there is interest from others who can’t get there, then we could also broadcast this Mass on Zoom - let me know.) Obviously, we will also include the King’s intentions in our prayers at our weekend Masses next weekend.

Hopefully, with the explanation given above, this won’t be seen as a ‘Brit’ trying to ‘Anglicise’ Canada, but rather that it will be an act of love for Canada, and our wish that we will be a country that holds mercy and religious freedom at its heart.

(If, unlike Thumper, you haven’t received an invitation to the Coronation, then please do join us at the weekend, either in person or via Zoom - see over.)



And Finally...

Thumper has had a busy week; by popular demand he did a guest visit to the Fernie Hospital to cheer up staff and patients. *(Note to self: Next time make sure Thumper has gone for a very long walk before any future visits, so he isn't quite so bouncy!)*

But Thumper and myself did also do a little bit of exploring this week. For the first time this season we went out for a cycle ride that wasn't with the studded snow tyres but was with normal tyres, and we discovered that someone had got to our favourite spot before us! (The Leatherman shown is 4" long.)

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 Link – To Eastertide Sunday Masses

Link to Our weekend Masses (*it is the same link for both of our broadcast Masses*)

Topic: **Fourth of Eastertide – Good Shepherd Sunday**

Date & Time: Saturday – 29th April – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie
Sunday – 30th April – 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 greetings 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 colds*. So please continue to be careful, and please don't breathe (or pant) over people (*are you listening Thumper?*)

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.



Prayer for Vocations

This weekend we are asked to pray for vocations; this is obviously vocations to the ordained priesthood and also to religious life. But vocation is a much broader term, so we pray for the vocation of marriage and family life, and indeed for those who choose to live their lives as single Christians. I include two prayers that we have received, the first from Pope Francis and the second from the diocese.

From the Pope:

Loving Father,
you call us by name.
As we journey through life
help us to be confident in our own unique identity
and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.
We pray that the Holy Spirit
will pour on us wisdom and guidance
to help us realise and follow our dreams,
discerning your plan for our lives.
Bless your Church
by raising up dedicated and generous people
from our families and friends
who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.
May we support one another in response to God's call.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.
+Franciscus

From the Bishop's Office:

Heavenly Father, bless our diocese with an abundance
of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.
Give those You have called to the married state, and those
You have chosen to live as single persons in the world,
the special graces that their lives require.
Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that in Him,
with Him, and through Him, we may love You more deeply
and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere.
With Mary, we ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**