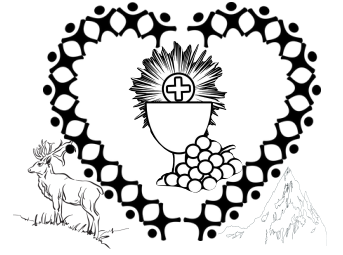


*Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 9am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



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

13th/14th May 2023



Dear All,

Another relatively short and hopefully regal e-mail.

The Coronation – Reflecting upon the Liturgy

I have to say that I found the Coronation on Saturday fascinating to watch. The thought that kept coming into my brain was that the Anglican Church really needs a “Vatican II” experience to help it with its liturgy. In terms of liturgy, what Vatican II did for the Catholic Church was to take our most wonderful sacraments and not only make them visible, but most importantly, make them comprehensible.

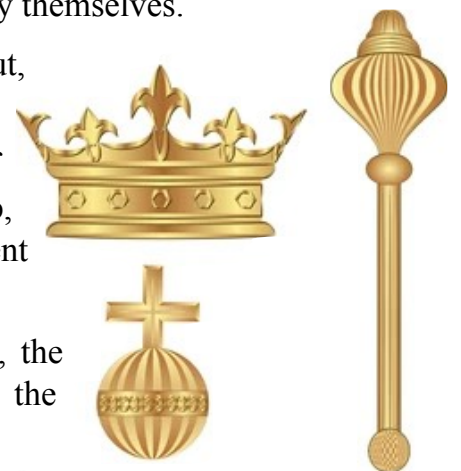
When I was training as a priest our liturgy tutors kept saying, “Let the liturgy speak; don’t feel that you constantly have to give a running commentary.” And I have always believed that if we celebrate liturgy well then it should be able to speak for itself.

Sometimes if I am with kids in McDonald’s (*or the new Wendy’s in Fernie*) I am reassured because I see that our young people can read the language of symbolism. If kids are in McDonald’s with people they are not that close to, then they take their burger and fries and simply eat them. But if they are part of a group, particularly if they want to show their unity with this group, then they take their burger and eat it, but they put their fries in the middle of the table and you let others share these as they share theirs. The sharing of food – not complicated, but something that expresses at a very instinctive level a sense of oneness. And similarly with a drink: if youngsters aren’t with people close to them then they drink their drink; it is only their really good and closest friends who they invite to share their ‘cup’. Again, we don’t have to teach our kids this or explain it to them, they can read this language by themselves.

That is what the changes in the liturgy of Vatican II was about, making visible this language that we can all instinctively read.

At the Coronation there was the most beautiful symbolism, of studs, rings and bibles, robes and crowns, sceptres and an orb, but could you read these? It is only thanks to an excellent commentary by the BBC that I knew what was going on.

At the rite of ordination of a deacon in the Catholic Church, the newly ordained deacon is given a book of the gospels and the prayer says,



*“Believe what you read;
Teach what you believe;
Practise what you teach.”*

I can remember being so moved by this action and these words, and no one needed to explain them to me; that is how liturgy should work. And even if the instruction is for a particular individual – *in this case a deacon* – we can all take it to heart as part of our lives. All of us should believe what we read in the gospels, teach what we believe and practise what we teach. What I missed at the King’s coronation was that sense of how can I too follow this same path? On Sunday in Sparwood we will have the rite of Confirmation, and hopefully as the youngsters are Confirmed we will all recommit ourselves to be co-workers with the Holy Spirit, and as three kids take Communion for the first time, all of us together will be renewing our wonder and love of the sharing in the Eucharist.

The closing prayer in the rite of ordination mentioned above says,

“May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment.”

For me, this prayer reminds me that in all these things – *Ordinations, Confirmation, First Communion or even Coronation* – it is the power of the Holy Spirit that actually enables us to fulfil these hopes and promises. It isn’t us who bring them to fulfilment, it is God working through us that enables us to take up our full role as a servant of God – whether that be as a deacon, a monarch or simply as a faithful Christian.

So our task, particularly as we approach Pentecost, is to renew our realisation of our need for the outpouring of the Spirit upon us; to see how we are open to God’s Holy Spirit, to spend time listening to the Holy Spirit talking to us, whether that be through the Word or through the liturgy. And very particularly, as we pray for our young people – *and indeed, as we pray for our King and Queen* – we do also promise to work with the Holy Spirit to grow in faith and to then share that with others, very particularly by the way we live our lives.



Deacon Adam Perza receives the Book of Gospels from Bp. Koenig in the diocese of Wilmington, USA. August 2021.

If you are in the new Wendy’s in Fernie – or another fast food chain anywhere else – don’t forget to share at least one of your fries with someone to whom you feel attached.

This Sunday’s Gospel Reading

Last Sunday I read a longer section from chapter 14 of John’s gospel, and what I read included the normal gospel text for this weekend. But the rubrics of the Mass say that *‘If the Ascension of the Lord is going to be celebrated next Sunday, the alternative Gospel (which would otherwise have been read on that Sunday) may be used today.’*

So I will take this alternative Gospel, which is John 17:1-11, and like last week, I will include it at the end of this e-mail so you can have a chance to read it before Mass.

And Finally...

In preparation for Mothers' Day, I asked Thumper what he would want to say to all you mothers out there, and below was his answer. Again, he gave his reply in a language we can all understand.



With prayers, *Fr. David & Thumper*

*So to all Mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers,
and all those who Mother!*



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: **Sixth Sunday of Eastertide**

Date & Time: Saturday – 13th May – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie

Sunday – 14th May – 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 is still very much about –
this week we have had parishioners
who have been quite ill due to Covid.**

**Also other viruses are also about,
so please still be respectful of other's space.**

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 coughs and colds*. So please continue to be careful, and please don't breathe over people.

If someone at Mass wants a bit of space, we have a lot of it in our churches, so please be respectful.

Everyone still needs to be careful.



Alternative Gospel for this Sunday

John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said,
“Father, the hour has come;
glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,
since you have given him authority over all people,
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence
with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world.

They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;

for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,
and they have received them
and know in truth that I came from you;
and they have believed that you sent me.

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world,
but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.