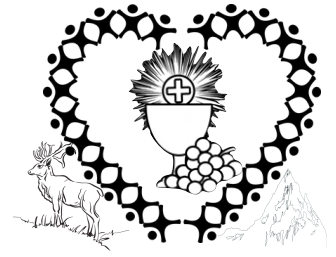


*Our Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:
Fernie on Saturday evening at 5pm,
Sparwood at 11am Sunday morning,
and Elkford at 4pm Sunday afternoon.*



This week Mass will be broadcast via Zoom (see below).

Stop Press!

Post Script: Written Thursday Morning

Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil MST

I have just received an e-mail from the Bishop saying that Fr. Neil is now not going to be coming to the Elk Valley. Instead the wonderful Fr. Thomas will be joining us. Many in Sparwood and Elkford will already know Fr. Thomas as I believe he served those parishes before they joined up with Fernie.

For those who don't know him, Fr. Thomas is a lovely man, very human, very modest, very kind. He is a member of 'The Missionary Society of Saint Thomas the Apostle' so has the letters MST after his name.

I should add that Fr. Neil has now been appointed to Penticton, and while he obviously will enjoy the gifts of the South Okanagan, he said that he had been thinking about and preparing for the move to the Elk Valley and was really looking forward to living here, but it was not to be this time. We wish him well in Penticton.

With all these changes, I will now be staying in the parish a little longer, so my last weekend in the parish will now be 23rd/24th July and Fr. Thomas' first weekend will be 29th/30th July. That will give me a bit longer to pack and to say all my goodbyes!



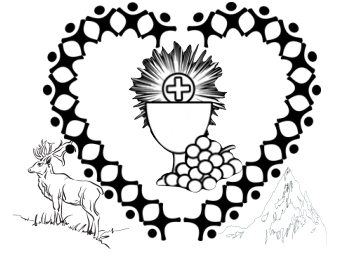
**BREAKING
NEWS**

***** New *****

My last weekend: 23rd/24th July

Fr. Thomas' first weekend: 29th/30th July

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For: 1st/2nd July 2023 *(Written on Tuesday 27th June)*

Dear All,

Greetings from the north of Vancouver Island.



CWL Convention

On my way up and down the island I am visiting with some of the CWL Diocesan Executive from the Victoria Diocese, and just today we were discussing the convention in Prince George. I have to say, with all the business of this week Prince George seems a long time ago! But in a way that has helped me process what I experienced.

First and foremost, my memory of the convention was faith, fun, and just so much enthusiasm. *(I also remember that the food was very good.)*

Please don't ask me what is happening in these photos! Let's just say, "fun and enthusiasm".





A drawing done by a local artist especially for the Convention.

What the convention did was bring CWL members from across B.C. and Yukon together, and this led to the sharing of their joy and their faith. At the same time we had the CWL's National President, Fran Lucas, with us, and she gave us an insight into what was happening in the CWL at the national level, and also a greater understanding of how the whole organisation fits together.

Then there were both informative talks and inspirational talks, some about specifically CWL issues and some about more general issues. For example, we had a talk from a lady who works with people (both female and male) who are thinking about abortion. But I found the really interesting part of her talk was the whole issue of helping people *after* an abortion and the very many issues that arise, particularly if the person at some point wants forgiveness from the child that died in the abortion. There was a lot of challenging issues in this talk.

And do you know what, funeral lunches and bake sales were not on the agenda! This time was all about the faith that drives the CWL to their acts of service. I really enjoyed the convention and I am sorry that it was my last as Provincial Spiritual Advisor. It is not often that one is with such an enthusiastic and joyful group of people who never fail to lift my spirit.

Visit to the Island

So let's deal with the most important thing: When we first arrived at the Victoria diocesan offices there was a bit of tension, but after just a few minutes that was gone and all was well. I am, of course, talking about how Bishop Gary's dog, Taku, and Thumper got along; a little stand-off at first, but then they happily caused chaos in the office by chasing each other around, so they were put outside and played there.



Taku and Thumper after a good game of chase. (Note that the Thumper let Taku share his ball!)

It was a busy trip, both in Victoria and with a dash up to see the parish. This was an informal visit to the parish so I didn't meet with any of the parishioners, rather I just had a look around the area and visited the churches. I have to say, apart from the church at Port Hardy, all the others make Elkford look big! Each church was set in quiet surroundings, the areas around them were well kept, and they looked in good order. Sadly, none of those descriptions apply to the residence! It did look a bit run down, and squeezed into a corner of a trailer court. I drove to it and had to reverse the length of the street to get out as there wasn't room to turn around.



What was worse, I heard from one priest that because the trailer was often left empty for longer periods, rodents – *okay, he said rats* – have been known to come into the trailer. But I am sure that they have now dealt with that issue.

Top: *St. Mary's, Port McNeill.*

Middle: *St. Bonaventure's,
Port Hardy.*

Bottom: *St. Theresa's, Port Alice.*



Yet despite the slight worry about the state of the accommodation, I am still very excited about the prospect of moving to this area.

I don't like moving and I do have a certain amount of anxiety when I move, particularly if there are unknown aspects to what I am going into. And, of course, it is so easy for the negative to rush in to this space; the overly critical side of my brain keeps saying things like, "You caught the north of the island on one of the few hot, sunny weekends." and "Pretty churches are one thing, but is there anyone who uses them?" But my spiritual



side within me keeps saying, "Put yourself into God's hands and trust God."

I mention this because there might be some in the parish who are going through a similar process of having anxieties about our change of priest, and because there is a certain amount of 'unknown', the 'negative' might be throwing up unhelpful thoughts. The answer is simple: listen to the Spirit within you and put yourself into God's hands.

We Thank Fr. Marian and Welcome Deacon Stephen

We thank Fr. Marian for being with us these last few weeks, and this weekend we welcome Deacon Stephen. I must say, with the CWL Convention and then a dash to get over to the Island for various things here, it has been a busy time, so I am doubly grateful to Deacon Stephen for agreeing to preach this weekend. I look forward to his words of wisdom and I am also trying to work out how we can get him out to Vancouver Island to preach there.

Sparwood Sunday Mass is at 11am.

We are Zooming Again

Our Masses from Fernie and Sparwood will again be broadcast on Zoom this weekend and until I leave. I am not sure about after that, we will have to wait to see what Fr. Thomas feels comfortable with.

And Finally...

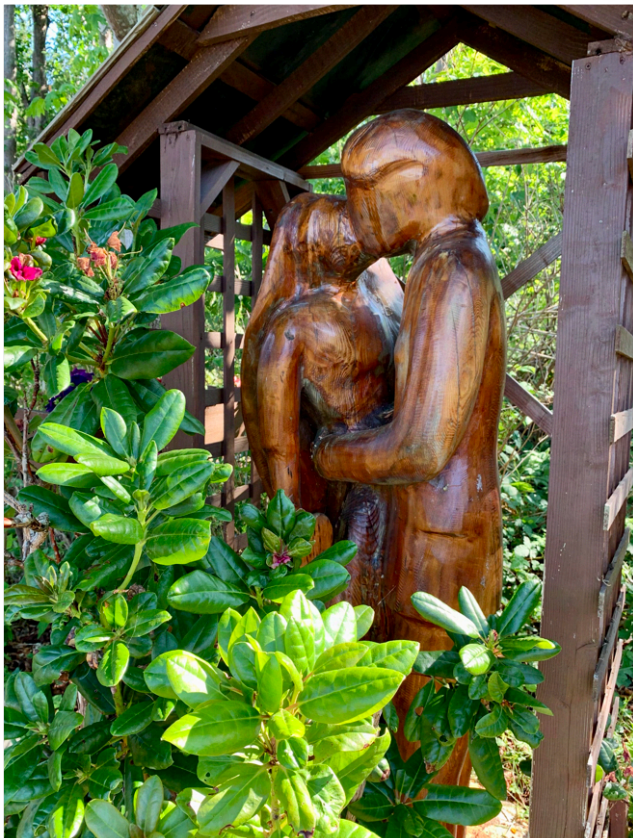
Part of my trip was to visit the one neighbouring parish that I will have, that is, St. Patrick's in Campbell River. I spent one evening with their youth group who have very kindly offered to come up to Port Hardy to visit and try to encourage any youth we might have. The Campbell River CWL have made a similar offer to come up and meet with the ladies of the parishes. But while I was in St. Patrick's I noticed two things.

Firstly, above the lectern from where the priest preaches, they have a big digital clock! (Picture right below.). That is one way of reminding the priest of how long his sermons are!

The *second* was a statue in the garden behind the church (see photo left below). I am sure that there must be a story behind it.

There aren't many pictures of Thumper in this e-mail, so I will add a page of pictures of Thumper's time away.

With prayers,
Fr. David @ Thumper



If you are *without* any symptoms of a virus, please join us.
But Covid is still about – thus caution is needed!



Zoom Link – To our Deacon-Enriched Sunday Masses

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

Topic: **13th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Date & Time: Saturday – 1st July – at 5pm Mountain time from Fernie

Sunday – 2nd July – at **11am** 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 about – also other viruses are about –
so please still be respectful of other people's space.***

Some people might have vulnerabilities, and with a number of viruses around, 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.

On the Following Page:

Top: An old train in Woss, a village in the south of the Mission Area.

Middle left: Thumper and Taku, this time Thumper has the ball.

Middle right: From the truck, Thumper watches carefully everything I do.

Bottom: Thumper in the garden in Campbell River.

