

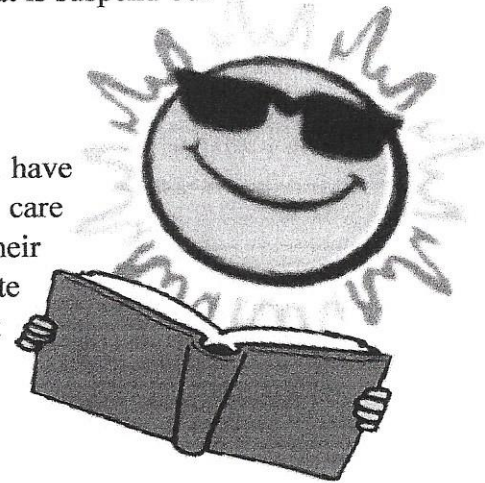
Hazy, Crazy, Lazy Days of Summer

Fr. David writes... I had arranged for another priest to come in during the summer and supply for me for three weeks so that I could have a break. Sadly he has had to cancel, so it looks like once again I won't be getting a proper holiday this year. Last year I had my trip to Britain, but that was predominantly for Church related events (even if I did get four wonderful days in Iceland on the way home!). Before that, the last time I was away for a weekend other than for a wedding or a funeral was May 2009! So I am upset to have lost my holiday again.

With this in mind, during July and August my hope is that I will be able to take some time off during the week to go into the bush and get away from everything and everyone. I very much like to read ahead on the Sunday readings so I can structure my sermons during the 'seasons' of the church's year, plus there are many other church documents that I always feel I need to read but rarely have the time to do it. Reading is not particularly easy for me so to effectively go through something I do need a bit of space and tranquil surroundings definitely help. In order for this to happen I will do what I have done in many parishes before, that is suspend our normal schedule of weekday Masses until around Labour Day.

Rocky Mountain Village, Fernie

I have talked to the staff at Rocky Mountain Village in Fernie and have been told that most of the voluntary organisations that go into the care home either stop completely for the summer or significantly reduce their activities for the summer months. They suggested that we celebrate Mass in the home two times in the month rather than our current three times, effectively, every second week – just until September.



Lilac Terrace, Sparwood

At the Mass at Lilac Terrace, Sparwood, we sometimes have a couple of dozen people and many of these people can't easily get to Sunday Mass in the church, thus I don't want to start cancelling this Mass unless I have to. Rather I would like to say to others who perhaps will be busy during the summer, if you are away for a weekend and unable to get to Mass, don't forget we have this Mass on Friday 11am where we use the Sunday readings and prayers, so if you are away why not try taking this Mass in so you don't miss Mass completely over the weekend. I might have to cancel the Lilac Terrace Mass once or possibly twice over the next ten weeks, but hopefully most weeks this Mass will go ahead as normal.

Obviously I will do my level best to be available for funerals and for the hospitals, but there are a couple of weeks when I will need to be out of the area from Monday to Friday attending Summer School and alike.

In Summary

So in summary, **for July and August and up to around Labour Day there will be no Mass in Sparwood on Mondays, in Fernie on Tuesdays and in Elkford on Thursdays.** Please watch the newsletter for details of when there will be Masses at the care homes. If during this time there is a very significant anniversary or other event for which you would normally gather with others at a Mass to celebrate then let me know in advance and we will see what we can do.