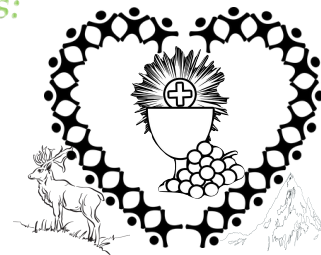


Our Current Weekend Mass Schedule for the Elk Valley is:

*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).

18th/19th September



Dear All,

For those who are reading this in Canada: if you haven't already done so, don't forget to vote. In Britain our general elections are always on a Thursday, so the first year I was eligible to vote in Canada I missed it because I presumed it would be on a Thursday, but it wasn't, it was the previous Monday.

You know, I think that is all I will say about the election; let's just hope it is a clear result then with a bit of luck it will be five years (or is it four?) before we have to play this game again.

Season of Creation

This 'season' runs until the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on 4th October. To mark that feast myself and Thumper hope to join the Victoria Diocesan Spiritual Advisor to the CWL in a walk along 'Elk Lake' on Vancouver Island (*which I am sure will be almost as beautiful as a walk in our own Elk Valley*).



To keep in mind the theme of this season, this weekend I will again be using Eucharistic Prayer IV. We have four Eucharistic Prayers for normal use (plus a number of special ones for children's Masses and for Reconciliation). Eucharistic Prayer IV is a beautiful telling of the story of our history. In its 'preface' it says, addressing God:

*...you, who alone are good, the source of life, have made all that is,
so that you might fill your creatures with blessings
and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light.*

Then it takes up this theme in the main part of the prayer:

*We give you praise, Father most holy, for you are great
and you have fashioned all your works in wisdom and in love.*

*You formed man in your own image
and entrusted the whole world to his care,
so that in serving you alone, the Creator,
he might have dominion over all creatures.*

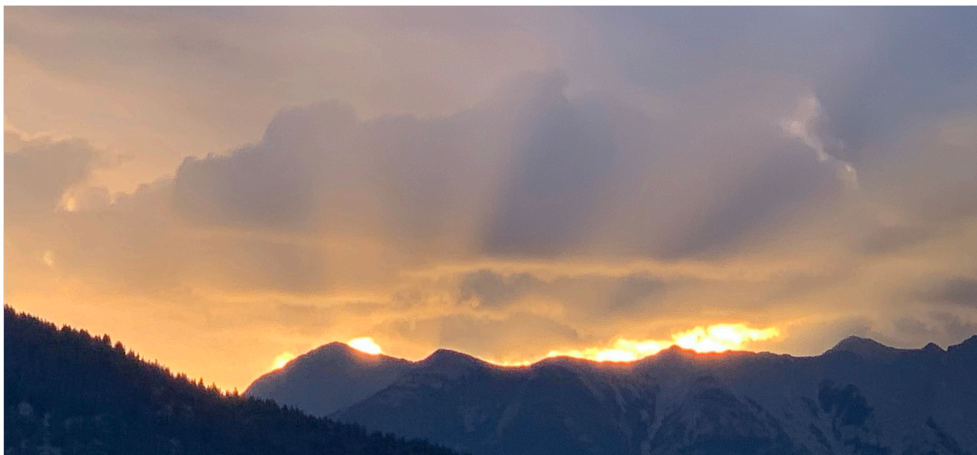
I do invite you to pray along with me as we say this prayer. I know that it is easy to let the words of Mass just wash over us, and this is great, but occasionally we need to pick them up again and have another little look at them. When we are praying this prayer we are recognising that all things were created by God and are given to us as a gift to bless us and bring us joy. Yet what the Pope has been pointing out in his letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* is that we have been taking so many of the world's gifts and thinking that they belong to us by right, so we have failed to use them well.

The Season of Creation and the Beauty of our World

On Tuesday I was part of a Zoom meeting with my home diocese in Britain; we were discussing our diocesan policy on the environment. This short two page statement has been drawn up by my home diocese and is being given to all the parishes in the South-West of England. I will attach it so that anyone who is interested can see what they are doing and saying. I found it thought provoking.

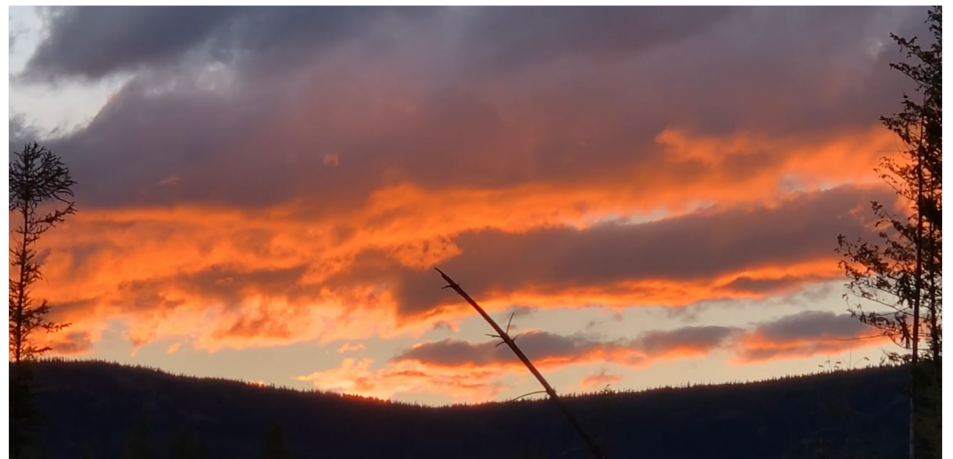
The next morning I was out early walking Thumper and I saw a beautiful sun rise. It was not fluffy clouds and then the sun suddenly breaking through, rather it almost seemed like a battle for the sky between a sun that was trying to emerge and

heavy clouds that were trying to keep us in night. I can easily see how the Greeks used to believe in various gods in the heavens that were often battling against one another.



Then I was giving Thumper his second walk of the day as the sun went down; this time not quite as much of a struggle, but still a spectacular event.

So even on cold and windy mornings, this valley is just such a wonderful example of the beauty of creation.



Top - the sun's rays shining from behind the mountain.

Above - the evening sky of fire.

The Season of Creation and My Little Green Conversion

Now it is a very little thing, but I bought some diet tonic water during the summer. Normally I don't buy pop as it is so full of sugar and even the 'diet' brands don't taste that good, but occasionally when I am very hot and dry they do quench a thirst. So I bought a 'six pack'.

On a hot day I opened the tin of pop, poured it into a glass and drank it. It was gone in a few seconds... but the aluminium can was still sitting there. I reflected, which has the most intrinsic value, which is more precious, which is the greater gift: the bubbly flavoured water or the aluminium can? In a soda stream one can take tap water, add some fizz and a bit of flavouring, and basically you have pop. To make the can you have to mine the aluminium (bauxite), process it at high temperature, roll it out with fine precision, treat all the surfaces, construct it into a container that will withstand pressure and keep the contents from contamination, and then paint a label on it. Yet we put the value on the watery thing and the can we throw away! My thought: not very good "dominion over" all creation. I can't buy those cans anymore because I just don't feel comfortable throwing all that metal away. Even if I recycle the can, for me, really I don't feel justify in using up so much precious raw material just so I can have some fizzy water.

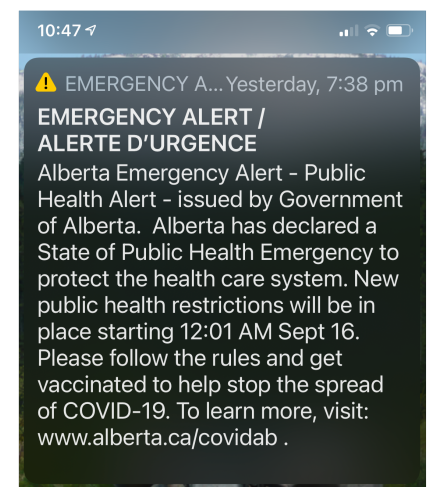
As Sr. Margaret Atkins said in her talk, being aware of the preciousness of our world's resources is not a 'green' issue, it is something that brings us back to our Christian creed, "*I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible*" (Nicene version). And so it is a way that we can try to live out our faith.

But don't forget, caring for creation is not necessarily about giving things up. I happily admit, I would love to care for creation and have a Tesla car, or perhaps even a Tesla Cybertruck! That bit of going green would not be a hardship for me!

Catholic Women's League

Now all my green credentials are about to be brought into question, because in October I will be using a lot of fossil fuel to drive down to the Lower Mainland to be part of the CWL's usual bi-yearly executive meetings. My only mitigation is that I will be driving down not flying down to Maple Ridge.

Last night at 7:38pm my phone suddenly made a dreadful noise, it was an Albertan "EMERGENCY ALERT" declaring a "State of Public Health Emergency" that has brought in new restrictions in relation to Covid as they fear their health service will be overwhelmed. So clearly things are still fluid in some parts of Western Canada, but we will have to see if anything changes in B.C. in the next few weeks. In the mean time I am still hoping that things will go ahead as arranged.



Fr. Marian

While I am away we will be welcoming Fr. Marian, an American priest who is currently in Canada. I am sure that he will introduce himself, but I have a feeling that the first two weeks of October will be a blessed time for this parish with Fr. Marian here with us.

(And before you ask, I am still here for another two weekends! I don't go until the end of the month.)

And Finally...

When Thumper goes on a good long run, instead of giving him slightly more at supper time, I have got into the habit of giving him a small tin of cat food as a treat, and as it is food, it has become his favourite... along with everything else that he can eat.

But honestly, presentation wise, this cat food is as good looking as a curry that a parishioner made for me! The Friskies 'Shredded Chicken and Salmon' looks even nicer! In fact it looks so good I had to have a little taste. **The result:** the parishioner's curry won by a mile!



We were both very blessed to have such wonderful food.

With prayers,

Fr. David @ Thumper

Top -

the good looking cat food for the dog.

Above -

the really gorgeous curry for me.

Our churches are now open *without* a limit on numbers.
But Covid is still in the population – so caution is needed!



Zoom Links

Link to Weekend Masses

To get the link to our two weekend Masses 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

So don't forget, if you are driving on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning you can listen to Mass while you drive! (But please, if you are the driver then when you are praying don't close your eyes or try to kneel, rather show your love of God and neighbour by concentrating on the road at all times.)

Again, e-mail the office for the link for this.

Chat:

Feel free to greet people via the chat when you join our broadcast, and if you are praying for anything particular, do share this with others on the Chat.

Hopefully our "1A - Chat (Co-Host)" will pick this up and pass it on to me.

If you don't want everyone to see your message you can send your message directly and it will remain private. I try to scan all the 'chat' at the end of Mass.

Waiting Room:

Please note when you log on you will be put in a "waiting room". Hopefully as soon as we see you waiting we will let you in. If there is a bit of a delay, please just wait; the co-host or myself will be with you as quickly as we can.

And for those who are with us in person, be careful:

Please continue to be careful when you are in church. Please sanitise your hands, wear a mask when moving about the church as you might come within a 'breath distance' of others, and be conscious that others might have health vulnerabilities that you don't know about. **Everyone still needs to be careful.**





Diocese of Plymouth Environmental Policy

Our Christian responsibility for the planet begins with appreciation of the goodness of all of God's creation: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good"
(Gen 1:31).

Pope Francis, through his encyclical letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, has taken a global lead in encouraging every person on the planet to take action and care for the earth - our common home - and preserve it for future generations, thinking and acting in solidarity with those who are poor and suffering. *Laudato Si'* is a call to an 'ecological conversion' inviting each one of us to recognise the connection between our faith, our planet and the most vulnerable people and to take an active role in preserving the gift of life on earth. *Guardians of God's Creation*¹ argues for 'a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church'.

The Diocese of Plymouth environmental policy respects the earth as God's creation and acknowledges that our care for it needs to be integrated into the life and mission of our Diocese. The policy sets out our commitment as a Diocese. The policy is for every person – young and old, parishioner and employee of the Diocese of Plymouth.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- To pray, study the scriptures, reflect on Catholic tradition and educate ourselves about the interconnectedness of all aspects of our common home in order to develop a spirituality which seeks to understand the effects of our actions on the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world as well as the earth's fragile ecology and the need for economies and lifestyles which reflect God's creation.
- To advocate for and work with people on the margins and people living in poverty since 'a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach;' [integrating] questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*" (Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #49)
- To ensure the mission of the church locally and on a diocesan level includes proclamation on environmental concerns in line with the living out of the gospel in people's lives, and exercising the prophetic voice of the church in support of stewardship and appropriate environmental action, such that the views of the church are heard and widely understood. (cf Pope Benedict *Caritas in Veritate* #51)
- To ensure that our buildings are managed with care for the environment and action plans to reduce negative impacts
- To minimise our use of the earth's natural resources, reducing our carbon footprint, minimising waste generation, and re-using and recycling when possible.

¹ <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/season-of-creation/guardians-of-gods-creation/>



- To follow ethical purchasing practices and influence our suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods and services procured support the environmental policy and, in turn, that all suppliers and contractors progressively improve their own environmental performance.
- To enhance the biodiversity of all Diocesan-owned grounds and gardens and our schools.
- To encourage ecological education in our schools and parishes
- To ensure that our investment policies adhere to ethical guidelines and promote investment for social benefit.
- To assess all our activities and operations in order to identify, understand and evaluate all the direct and indirect environmental aspects and priorities action to address them.
- To measure and reduce our environmental footprint to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030
- To regularly review and report on our way of working at Diocesan, school and parish level to verify our effectiveness in achieving environmental objectives.

MONITORING

This policy will be monitored annually by a Diocesan Committee² reporting to the Bishop's Council and Trustees.

This policy is accompanied by a framework for building personal, school, parish and diocesan responses to poverty and the environment.

Let us pray for wisdom and courage for the path ahead.

Date approved: 28 January 2021

Date of next review: January 2022

² The Committee will be chaired by the Vicar General and include representatives from the Trustees, Schools, Finance and Property and Caritas