

# RATCLIFFE, Rev James Joseph



January 28, 1940 - February 2, 2026

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia, has lost a beloved priest with the peaceful passing of Reverend James "Jim" Ratcliffe of Kelowna on Monday, February 2, 2026, at Sunpointe Village Seniors' Residence.

Father Jim, who was raised in the communities of Trinity Valley, Lumby and Kelowna, graduated in 1957 from Rutland Secondary and then attended Notre Dame University in Nelson, completing his Grade 13 before attending Christ the King Seminary from 1958 to 1959. He was ordained a subdeacon in 1963 at St. Peter's Seminary and then completed his studies and was ordained a priest on June 6, 1965. He celebrated his 60th anniversary this past June 6th here in Kelowna. Subsequently, he completed his M.A. in Theology at Notre Dame in Indiana in 1969.

He has since served the Nelson Diocese as Rector of the Cathedral in Nelson, as well as leading numerous faith communities throughout the Nelson Diocese pastoring parishes in Trail, Summerland, Kelowna, and Cranbrook.

Father Jim is survived by his younger sisters, Mary Royal and Elizabeth Dunne, both of Vancouver; stepsister, Kathleen Marty (Wong), of West Kelowna and stepbrothers, Maurice Marty and Don Marty, both of Osoyoos; as well as sister-in-law, Maureen Ratcliffe of Calgary.

Father Jim was predeceased by his father, Joseph Ratcliffe (d. 1958); mother, Margaret Ratcliffe Marty (d. 2002), of Kelowna; sisters Caroline Odell (d. 1995) of Calgary and Jeannie Ratcliffe (d. 2018) of Victoria; his brothers Vince Ratcliffe (d. 2008) and Bert Ratcliffe (d. 2013) both of Nelson, as well as his brother Hugh Ratcliffe (d. 2018) of Ladysmith.

Memorial donations may be sent to Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson – Pilgrimage of Faith (envelopes to make a donation will be available at the Mass - to make an online donation visit [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/24360](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/24360)).

Vigil Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday evening, February 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM, at Immaculate Conception Church, 839 Sutherland Ave, Kelowna, BC. The Viewing details are still to be determined (please check back on Monday; more information will be available then).

Mass of Christian Burial will be held the following day on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 10:30 AM (PST), at Immaculate Conception Church, with the Most Reverend Gregory Bittman Bishop of the Diocese of Nelson presiding. If you are unable to attend in person, please join the family online by Livestream at the time of the service, a recording will be made available to view shortly in 3-5 days.

A Memorial Reception will be held following the Mass in the Immaculate Conception Parish Centre.

Interment will take place on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 10:30 AM, at the Lumby Cemetery, 2601 Cemetery Lane, Lumby, BC.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. ~ Amen.

To view the Livestream recording or send the family condolences, please visit the obituary page at [www.springfieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.springfieldfuneralhome.com).

Link: [www.springfieldfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ratcliffe-rev-james](http://www.springfieldfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ratcliffe-rev-james)