



Church of the Annunciation

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The Roman Catholic
**DIOCESE OF
PRINCE GEORGE**

APOLOGY LETTER

FROM

BISHOP JENSEN:

June 15, 2021

"We've been grieving our whole lives. We've been born into sorrow." Those heart-breaking words were spoken recently by a young indigenous woman at a memorial in Surrey, BC for the children whose unmarked graves were discovered at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Her words capture the suffering inflicted on generations of indigenous people – the students who attended the residential schools in BC and across the country, their families and descendants and entire communities of First Nations. As I listened to her voice on the radio, I thought of the faces of the many indigenous men and women I have come to know in the parishes of the dioceses. It is impossible for us who are non-aboriginal to appreciate the depth of the wound that is carried by our indigenous brothers and sisters.

It was certainly wrong of the Church to cooperate in policies that aimed to deny native children their language and culture and destroyed their family life. Even worse, members of the Church committed abuse on innocent children entrusted to their care, which was an assault on the human dignity of these students. These crimes were a betrayal of the faith and the religious vows of the perpetrators.

Thirty years ago, in 1991, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the congregation that operated many of the residential schools in BC, made a four-page apology "for the part we played in the cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious imperialism that was part of the mentality with which the peoples of Europe first met Aboriginal peoples and which consistently has lurked behind the way the Native peoples of Canada have been treated by civil governments and by the churches." Similarly, the Sisters of St. Ann, who supplied teachers to some residential schools, also apologized, as did the bishops of the dioceses of BC as part of a Truth and Reconciliation gathering in Vancouver.

Since 2007, the diocese has sponsored and fully participated in multiple "Returning to Spirit" workshops to promote healing and reconciliation between indigenous and non indigenous persons. Our diocesan Catholic schools continue to address this tragic history in their curriculum.

June 20, 2021 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Annunciation Mass Schedule & Intentions

Mon Jun 21 @ 8:00 am

Tue Jun 22 @ 8:00 am

Wed Jun 23 @ 7:00 pm
Tulio Sperman+

Thurs Jun 24 @ 8:00 am

Fri Jun 25 @ 8:00 am

Sat Jun 26 @ 5:00 pm
Domenico Tran+

Sun Jun 27 @ 8:30 am

Sun Jun 27 @ 10:00 am
OUR PARISHIONERS

Parish Activities

Exposition & International Rosary: First Friday of the month @ 7:00 pm Mass followed by Exposition and Rosary.

Rosary: Saturday @ 10:15 am.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Every Wednesday evening @ 6:30 pm before Mass.

Catholic Women's League: Please check out our national website: cwl.ca and provincial: bcyukoncwl.com.

Confessions: Every Tues, Wed and Thurs, before Mass Sat, at 4:30pm or by appointment.

Baptism: Call the office for appt. with Fr. Terry.

Matrimony: Please contact Fr. Terry at least 6 months in advance.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: Confirmation for this year's candidates took place on June 16, 2021. Please call or email the office for details regarding First Holy Communion.

Alleluia. Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us; God has looked favourably on his people. **Alleluia.**



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"We've been grieving our whole lives. We've been born into sorrow." The eloquence of that young woman reminds us of the ongoing urgency of reconciliation and healing. In the hope of contributing to that, on behalf of the diocese I add my own sincere regret and apology to those who suffered and continue to suffer the effects of the residential schools and ask their forgiveness for our failures. The diocese remains committed to the path of reconciliation with those who have suffered and to a continuing dialogue with First Nations' leadership.

Last Friday an important initiative finally became public. For more than two years, a small committee of Canadian bishops has been working with the national indigenous leadership and officials in Rome to organize a visit of indigenous leaders, elders, residential school survivors and youth from across Canada for a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. This will allow the pope to hear the voices of aboriginal peoples directly about the terrible history of residential schools and the Church's complicity. It will give him the chance to respond to those voices. I am sure he will offer his own apology as pastor of the universal Church.

Bishop Stephen Jensen

DONATION ENVELOPE #207: Could the individual that is using donation envelope #207 please call the office (250-624-3035) or write their name on the envelope the next time they donate. #207 is not registered in our system and we want to ensure that we have the correct name so that we can issue a donation receipt at the end of the year. Thank you!



CONFIRMATION: Congratulations to the following students who received the sacrament of Confirmation this past Wednesday: Holland Clouthier, Steven Daniil, Coral Fitzsimmons, Laura Fudger, Sawyer Hennessy, Maxim Hjelt, Jasmin John-Nixon, Molly Johnson, Jugan Mariampillai, Noah Movold, Luca Pirillo, Kasha Pottle, Betina Sta Maria, Anna Stevens, and Owen Verde-Skinner. May the grace of God's world, the guidance of His hand and the loving wisdom of His words fill you heart and light your way today and every day. Best wishes on your Confirmation!

**Mass
Collection
June 13, 2021**

Envelopes
\$1,555.00

Loose
\$54.00

CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (CCCB) STATEMENT—

DELEGATION TO THE HOLY SEE: The Catholic Bishops in Canada have genuinely heard the sincere invitation to engage wholeheartedly with the past and are deeply committed to take truly meaningful active steps together with Indigenous Peoples in view of a future filled with greater respect and cooperation. The recent discovery of children's remains at a burial site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia remind us of a tragic legacy still felt today. With the strong encouragement of Pope Francis, the Bishops of Canada have pledged true and deep commitment to renewing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the land. In recent years, regional and diocesan listening circles have taken place across the country in order to hear the stories from local Indigenous communities and their hopes for the future. Mutual listening is the beginning of our common efforts to bring about shared and long-lasting reconciliation, authentic healing and bridge building.

In conversation with Indigenous people and communities, both at the local and national levels, and bilaterally with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit national organizations, the Bishops, sponsors of this project, have been preparing, for over two years now, a delegation of Indigenous people to meet with the Holy Father to foster meaningful encounters of dialogue and healing. This pastoral visit will include the participation of a diverse group of Elders/Knowledge Keepers, residential school survivors and youth from across the country. The event will likewise provide Pope Francis with a unique opportunity to hear directly from Indigenous Peoples, express his heartfelt closeness, address the impact of colonization and the implication of the Church in the residential schools, so as to respond to the suffering of Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma.

The global pandemic caused by COVID-19 has stalled this project; however, the Bishops remain committed to moving forward with the delegation prior to the end of 2021, in compliance with international travel guidelines.

The delegation to the Holy See represents an important step on the journey of reconciliation and shared healing for Indigenous Peoples and the Church in Canada. Pope Francis, in his 6 June 2021 Angelus message, spoke about the shocking discovery of children's remains at the former Kamloops residential school and, while conveying sorrow and solidarity, emphasized the importance of "walking side by side in dialogue and in mutual respect in the recognition of the rights and cultural values of all the sons and daughters of Canada". It is our hope that these forthcoming encounters – and the important collaboration and partnership that has supported the planning – will lead to a shared future of peace and harmony between Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church in Canada. 10 June 2021