

Prayer Ritual for Reconciliation during Pope Francis' Visit to Canada



**WALKING
TOGETHER**
POPE FRANCIS CANADA 2022

**MARCHER
ENSEMBLE**
PAPE FRANÇOIS CANADA 2022

During Pope Francis' pastoral visit to Canada (**July 24 to 29**), he will address the impact of colonization on Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church's involvement in operating residential schools.

All of us can be part of this moment of healing and reconciliation through prayer at home or wherever we may be. Here is a brief prayer ritual you can use on your own or with family members or friends.

Prayer Ritual

- 1. Find a quiet, peaceful place.** Place a candle in the space and add one or more symbols of creation, such as a flower, a picture of nature, or a rock, and a symbol of our faith, such as a cross or a Bible. You may want to leave this prayer space set up throughout the Pope's visit and add to it each day.
- 2. Choose a time for your prayer.** Invite others to join you, if you like. If you can't gather in person, you could agree to pray at the same time in solidarity wherever you are.
- 3. When you are ready, go to your prayer space.** Light the candle, then pray this prayer:

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen,
of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears,
of bodies, souls, voices and all relations:
you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation.
Uphold with your love and compassion all who open their lives
in the sacred sharing of their stories;
breathe in us the grace to trust in your loving forgiveness,
that we may face our histories with courage;
touch us through the holy gift of story,
that those who speak and those who listen may behold your own redeeming presence;
guide us with holy wisdom to enter through the gates of remorse,
that our feet may walk gently and firmly on the way of justice and healing. Amen*

- 4. Take a moment to reflect.** What comes to mind? What actions might you take (in your home, parish or wider community) to work toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples? For example: learn about the land you live on and who lived here before Europeans arrived • read a book by an Indigenous author • follow Indigenous people and groups on social media to amplify their voices • donate money or time to an Indigenous organization • read the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission • learn a word or two in a local Indigenous language (such as Miigwetch: thank you).
- 5. Offer a prayer for Pope Francis** as he walks the path of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada during his visit.
- 6. Thank God for this time of prayer** as you blow out the candle.

*Anglican Church of Canada, <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/TRC-prayers.pdf>