**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Sept. 30, 2021**

On Thursday, September 30, 2021, across the country, Canadians will be observing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The ongoing journey to healing and reconciliation has a particular relevance for Catholics throughout Canada given the church’s involvement in operating many residential schools and recognizing the suffering and intergenerational trauma that remains for many survivors to this day. This day provides an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools, and commit to working for truth and reconciliation in the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

All are welcome to join Cardinal Thomas Collins for a virtual prayer service on September 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. – you can access the prayer service through the St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica livestream at: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>. In addition, spiritual and educational resources relating to Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation can be accessed by visiting: [www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation](http://www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation).

**Opportunities for Prayer and Reflection**

Prayer Services (Prepared by the Archdiocese of Toronto in consultation with Indigenous Elders) – for personal or parish use. On September 30 follow this link: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>

Novena to the Martyrs for those Hurt by Residential Schools (written by Fr. Robert Foliot, SJ)

<https://smirh.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Novena-to-the-Martyrs-for-Those-Hurt-by-Residential-Schools.pdf>

[Way of the Cross – Praying About Residential Schools](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41k--rIqm-0) (YouTube video – 54 minutes - Way of the Cross from Martyrs’ Shrine, Midland – written by Fr. Robert Foliot, SJ)

[Prayer for Tolerance, Forgiveness, Reconciliation](https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-National-Indigenous-Peoples-Day.pdf) – (prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for National Indigenous Peoples Day)

[Collection of Prayers](https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/sub-sites/residential-schools/home/prayers/) – including those from the Diocese of Saskatoon and other sources – Archdiocese of Toronto webpage on Healing & Reconciliation)

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have written an apology to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. To read the document please follow this link: <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/outreach/news/archdiocesan/catholic-bishops-of-canada-apologize-to-the-indigenous-peoples-of-this-land/>