

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
WILDFIELD

invites you to a talk and prayers for

**TRUTH
AND
RECONCILIATION**
with
FATHER CRISTINO BOUVETTE



Wednesday ■ 27 September 2023
Mass at 7:00 p.m.
Talk and Discussion to follow



Father Cristino was the national liturgical director for the Pope's visit in 2022.

He is of mixed heritage: Italian through his mother, and Métis and Cree through his father. His grandmother attended a residential school.

He was chosen as liturgical director because of his unique position "to have both those worlds that have come together," that of Canada's Indigenous peoples and the western European culture that brought Christianity to Canada.

Father Cristino currently serves as director of the Saint Francis Xavier Chaplaincy which fosters faith formation and fellowship among young adults across the Diocese of Calgary.

As a Catholic priest and man of Indigenous heritage, Father Cristino offers a unique perspective on the history of residential schools in Canada and the journey towards truth, healing, and reconciliation.



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WALKING TOGETHER

POPE FRANCIS CANADA
24 - 29 JULY 2022



On 24 to 29 July of 2022, Pope Francis embarked on a “penitential pilgrimage” to Canada. The Pope’s journey came in response to invitations he received from the Church and the civil authorities in Canada, and from Canada’s Indigenous peoples themselves.

The visit was focused on healing and reconciliation with the nation's Indigenous peoples who suffered attempts to erase their culture and identity.

These injustices were perpetrated in the infamous historic government-funded residential schools system, with the cooperation of many members of the local churches.

WORDS FROM THE POPE



Dear friends, the reconciliation brought by Christ was no agreement to preserve outward peace, a sort of gentlemen’s agreement meant to keep everyone happy. Nor was it a peace that dropped down from heaven, imposed from on high, or by assimilating the other. The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus reconciles by bringing together, by making two distant groups one: one reality, one soul, one people. And how does he do that? Through the cross. Jesus reconciles us with one another on the cross, on the “tree of life”, as the ancient Christians loved to call it.

(Edmonton, 25 July 2022)

A PRAYER BY THE POPE



Lord, as the people on the shores of the Sea of Galilee were not afraid to cry out to you with their needs, so we come to you this evening, with whatever pain we bear within us. We bring to you our weariness and our struggles, the wounds of the violence suffered by our Indigenous brothers and sisters. In this blessed place, where harmony and peace reign, we present to you the disharmony of our experiences, the terrible effects of colonization, the indelible pain of so many families, grandparents and children. Help us to be healed of our wounds. We know that this requires effort, care and concrete actions on our part; but we also know that we cannot do this alone. We rely on you and on the intercession of your mother and your grandmother.

(Lac Sainte-Anne, 26 July 2022)