



MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

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Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

I have listened with an open heart to what many of you have had to say about the tragedy in Kamloops, BC. As someone who has only been in Canada for ten years, I'm sorry to say my knowledge of the Residential School scandal was limited before now. The more I learn, the more I share in the shock and sorrow of the Indigenous people whose grief and trauma is incomprehensible. I grieve with all of you as well, and all Catholics who are in pain from this news and from the Church's response to it.

As your pastor, I can promise you this: our parish will meet God's people in this moment of sorrow and injustice with humility and openness. We will pray with you for the souls of the innocent children who perished, their families and the Nations they represent. We are working to identify meaningful ways that we can all participate as a parish in restorative justice projects to the Indigenous families and Nations who have been impacted. A special memorial liturgy on July 1st is currently being planned, and we will share more information about this in the coming days.

My dear friends, remember we are Children of the Light. At this time may we look to our patroness, Mary Mother of God and our Mother of Sorrows for comfort and inspiration. May our response to this as individuals, as a parish and as Church be pleasing to Her Son, whose Sacred Heart is a never ending fountain of love and mercy for all. He is the answer. May His light of truth and love shine in us and through us, now and always.

Please contact me at any time with questions or concerns. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Have mercy on us. Mary Mother of God: Pray for us.

Fr. Jerry Punnassery, CMI

Pastor