



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WHITEHORSE

5119 – 5th Avenue
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1L5
Phone: (867) 667-2052
Fax: (867) 667-4713

M230622

Memo for Public Release

Date: June 23, 2022

To: All parishioners

From: Chancery

Re: Papal Visit to Canada - Program

The Vatican has released additional details regarding the Papal Visit to Canada, July 24-29, 2022 ([Press release 23.06.2022](#)). The Pope's visit will provide an opportunity for him to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of residential schools in Canada. The papal visit will also provide an opportunity for the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to connect with the Catholic community in Canada.

The Holy Father will travel within Alberta (based in Edmonton) from July 24-27, followed by a visit to Quebec City and Ste. Anne-de-Beaupré, July 27-29. Pope Francis will visit Iqaluit, Nunavut the afternoon of July 29 before returning to Rome.

Drawing on the theme, "Walking Together", the Holy Father's journey of reconciliation, healing and hope includes visits to a former residential school, Indigenous pilgrimage sites, two public Masses and a mix of private and public events. As Edmonton is the closest hub to our diocese, that program is posted below. There will be tickets available (free) for a limited number of events, all of which will be broadcast and accessible via livestream.

All Catholic faithful in Canada are encouraged to participate as fully as they can whether they attend the events in-person, or through prayer, fasting, and online viewing. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the events and virtually. For ticket information, to volunteer, donate or learn more, visit www.papalvisit.ca. You can also read the [Catholic Bishops' news release](#) welcoming this announcement from the Vatican.

We are grateful to God for this visit from Our Holy Father. Please continue to pray for the health of Pope Francis and for all those engaged in the ongoing healing and reconciliation journey.

EDMONTON PROGRAM

Monday, July 25, 2022

On July 25th, Pope Francis will visit Maskwacis, home to the former Ermineskin Residential School, one of the largest residential school sites in Canada. The Holy Father will join former residential school students from across the country as part of a formal program. Alberta is home to the largest number of former residential schools in Canada.

Later in the day, the pontiff will visit Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, a National Indigenous church in downtown Edmonton. Following extensive restoration after a devastating fire in 2020, the parish will re-open its doors after using a nearby school the last several years to offer hospitality, spiritual care and supportive outreach programs serving a diverse urban Indigenous community. This will be an invitation-only event.

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

July 26th is the feast of St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus, a day of particular reverence for Indigenous Catholics and often the focus of pilgrimage in various parts of the country. In an event that will be open to the public, the Holy Father will celebrate an open-air Mass at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton. The facility can accommodate up to 65,000 attendees for a program that will incorporate Indigenous traditions as part of the gathering.

In the early evening, the Holy Father will travel to Lac Ste. Anne, the site of an annual pilgrimage that welcomes tens of thousands of Indigenous participants from throughout Canada and the United States each year. Programming will be offered throughout the day leading up to the Holy Father's participation in a prayer service.