

# Week of prayer leading up May 5: National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

## **Day 1: April 29th**

### **Intermediate/Senior version:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Creator God, as we begin a new week, we pray for more love in our world and in our hearts, we pray for a movement of peace and justice to rise in us and among us as we confront the challenges and brokenness of this world.

Let us pause now as we call to mind the persons and situations most in need of our prayers and love today.

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- We pray that every work of change needed in this world would find its origin and strength in your loving plan of mercy and reconciliation.
- We pray that when we find ourselves discouraged or overwhelmed by an undisguised disregard for human dignity and life, that you would ignite a spirit of unity, action and prayer within us.
- As we journey together this week in preparation for Red Dress Day, we pray for the transformation of systems, communities and individual hearts most needed at this moment.

Source of Life, we thank you for helping us to pray with more love in our hearts.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Elementary version:**

Dear God,

As we start this new week, we ask for more love in our world and in our hearts. We want peace and fairness to grow in us and around us, especially when things are hard.

Let's take a moment to think about the people and situations that need our thoughts and love today.

We hope that every good change in the world comes from your love and kindness. When we feel sad or lost because people aren't treating each other well, help us to come together with love, action, and prayers.

This week, as we get ready for Red Dress Day, we ask for help in changing things that need to be better in our communities and in people's hearts.

Thank you, God, for helping us pray with love.

## **Day 2: April 30th**

### **Intermediate/Senior version:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Every life is a Masterpiece of God's creation...

When you look in the mirror what do you see? When you look at another human being (regardless of appearance) what do you see?

Do you see a masterpiece of God's creation, a being made in God's own image; a being destined to live forever and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect?

Whenever you notice that you're losing sight of your own value or the worth of another person; when challenging circumstances make it easy to overlook the awesome mystery of another human life, we must say "Maker of Life, thank you for life". "Thank you for each amazing, unrepeatable and sacred being I meet today."

Let us pray,

Maker of Life, the next time we see ourselves in the mirror; or look at the next person we meet, may our first thought be: "thank you for life, thank you for this amazing, unrepeatable and sacred gift of life.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Elementary version:**

Every person is like a special artwork made by God...

When you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see? And when you look at someone else, no matter how they look, what do you see? Do you see a special creation of God, someone made to be like God; someone who will live forever and deserves lots of respect?

If you ever forget how important you are, or how important others are, especially when things are hard, just say, "God, thank you for life." "Thank you for every amazing, unique, and important person I meet today."

Let's pray,

God, next time we look in the mirror, or meet someone new, let's first think: "thank you for life, thank you for this amazing, unique, and important gift of life."

### **Day 3: May 1st**

#### **Intermediate/Senior version:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Deep respect and honour is always due to those created in the image of God... To speak poetically, we are formed from God's good earth, with the wind of God—our immortal soul—breathed in. (Eden's Invitation.)

Let us pray,

Maker of life, Giver of Breath, give us the wisdom to treat one another as sacred. We believe each person (without exception) is a beloved blend of God's good earth with the wind of God breathed in. That is what we are. We are sacred. Forgive us for the ways we have not lived out the fullness of this truth.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **Elementary version:**

Deep respect and honour should always be given to those made in God's image... To say it beautifully, we're made from God's good earth, with the breath of God breathed into us.

Let's pray,

God, Giver of Life, Giver of Breath, help us understand how special each person is. We believe that every person (no matter who) is a special mix of God's God's good earth with God's breath inside. That's who we are. We are special. Please forgive us for not always remembering and treating each other this way.

## **Day 4: May 2nd**

### **Intermediate/Senior version:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We know that life's challenges can leave us breathless or even brokenhearted, but with God's help, they can make us more empathetic, more compassionate, more patient, more understanding of others.

Let us pray,

Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life and the gift of each life. We give you thanks for the moments of our day, even the challenging ones, that make us more empathetic, more compassionate, more patient and more understanding of others.

As we look upon the needs of communities across Canada, Grant us, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built upon justice and guided by love.

May our prayers, our actions, our words and our presence bless those most in need today.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Elementary version:**

We know that life can be tough sometimes, and it might leave us feeling tired or sad. But with God's help, those tough times can actually make us better people.

Let's pray, God, Creator of all, we're grateful for life and for every person's life. Thank you for all the moments in our day, even the hard ones, because they help us become kinder, more patient, and better at understanding others.

As we think about the needs of people all across Canada, help us see the world through your eyes: a world where everyone is safe, where no one goes hungry, where people share what they have, where different cultures get along, and where peace comes from fairness and love.

May our prayers, actions, words, and being there for others help those who need it most today.

## **Day 5: May 3rd**

### **Intermediate/Senior version:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sunday, May 5th is a day to remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We honour this day as "Red Dress Day".

We pray for all Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people today, we honour these much-loved mothers, grandmothers, wives, aunties, sisters, nieces and friends.

The health and generational safety of communities and families rely deeply on the essential gifts and profound wisdom they offer. Without them, we simply cannot live well.

We express our sorrow and sadness for all daughters of the Creator, especially Indigenous sisters, who have gone missing and who should still be with us.

We are mindful of the ongoing legacy of colonial systems and unchecked prejudices that fail to bring them home or bring them justice.

We ask for comfort and care for families and community members left behind. We ask for the courage to acknowledge the injustice still happening today across this country and we humbly pray for the conviction to listen to this call for justice.

Creator, help us to find our balance once again, so that we might return to our senses and take up our responsibilities to all members of community; help us to make things right.

We ask this through Jesus the Good Teacher and Healer.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Elementary version:**

Sunday, May 5th is a special day to remember Indigenous women and girls who are missing and should still be with us. It's called "Red Dress Day."

Today, we think about all Indigenous mothers, grandmothers, wives, aunties, sisters, nieces, and friends. They bring important wisdom and gifts to our communities and families, and we need them to live well.

We feel sad for all the daughters of the Creator, especially Indigenous sisters, who have gone missing and should still be with us.

We ask for comfort for their families and communities. We also ask for the courage to admit that unfair things are still happening today. We pray for the strength to make things right.

God, help us find balance again, so we can take care of everyone in your family. We ask this through Jesus, who taught us and healed us.