Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN CANADA

Red Wednesday 2026



As a **Catholic and Pontifical Charity**, Aid to the Church in Need is especially concerned with **poor, oppressed, and persecuted Christian communities**.

What is Red Wednesday?

Red Wednesday is an event aimed at **highlighting the persecution and injustice suffered by Christians**, while promoting respect and tolerance between people of different religions. We want people to take a stand for their faith, and more broadly, for **religious freedom**. Churches, landmarks, public buildings, and homes are illuminated in red, while individuals and groups wear red and engage in prayer and awareness

activities. The **colour red** represents the **blood of martyrs** and signifies solidarity with those who cannot freely practise their faith.

Key Statistics

- Currently**, 413 million Christians live in countries where religious freedom is severely violated**.
- Of these, approximately **220 million live in countries where they are directly exposed to persecution**.
- We estimate that **75% of religiously motivated violence is directed against Christians**.



Solidarity and symbols

In solidarity with Christians who are suffering for their faith, we propose organizing an event focused on this theme and showing support by wearing red and illuminating churches or other significant buildings—including secular ones—in red, a colour associated with martyrdom in the Christian tradition.

Photo: Montreal, November 19, 2025 – Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral, illuminated in red for Red Wednesday.

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What you can do

The date set for **2026** is **November 18** (the third week of November). We are trying to coordinate events so that they take place on the same day in order to draw greater public attention to the issue of persecution. However, if you are unable to organize an event on that day, you may hold it anytime during **Red Week, from November 15 to 22**.

You can:

- **Light up** a church or other prominent building in your area **in red**.
- **Organize a Mass** for persecuted Christians.
- **Plan a vigil** or a time of prayer, possibly an ecumenical one.
- **Pray the Rosary**.
- **Select special universal prayers** to include in a celebration.
- Invite people to **wear red**.
- **Organize a presentation** on religious persecution and religious freedom with Aid to the Church in Need.
- **Use social media to spread the word** about Red Wednesday and raise awareness of the cause (using the hashtag **#RedWednesday**).
- **Hold a press conference**.
- **Organize a fundraiser** to support communities in need.

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Resources are now available on our homepage:

- Posters to promote your event.
- A document providing an overview of the issue.
- Examples of situations of persecution.
- Suggested readings for celebrating a Mass.
- Rosary prayers.
- Readings for a prayer vigil.
- Universal prayers.

You can adapt the material to your situation.



Finally, request some **red scarves** for you and the participants to wear on the day of your event. It's a great way to show your solidarity.

Contact Valérie Vulcain at vv@acn-canada.org or 1-800-585-6333 ext. 227.

Our dream is to rally dioceses and parishes from across Canada to have a greater impact on our respective communities and to make the plight of our brothers and sisters who suffer for their faith known. Through our solidarity, we also remind them that they are not forgotten.

Join #RedWednesday

Red Wednesday: an international event!

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Red Wednesday is observed in many countries, including England, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, and right here at home!

Photo: Paris, November 19, 2025 – Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral lit up in red, in solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world.

Contact and organization

For information: Valérie Vulcain, Campaign Coordinator: **vv@acn-canada.org** or 1-800-585-6333, ext. 227

Aid to the Church in Need Canada
P.O. Box 670, Station H, Montreal, QC H3G 2M6

Additional Information

Society and religious persecution

In our secular society, injustices and persecution against believers are largely ignored—possibly because religion has been pushed out of the public sphere. It is also due to the fact that people are becoming less and less knowledgeable about religion. All of this makes it especially difficult for Westerners to fully understand the nature and extent of persecution today.

That is why *Red Wednesday* aims to raise awareness among Christians and non-Christians alike about what is happening in the world and seeks to encourage them to take action through prayer and, to a lesser extent, by supporting Aid to the Church in Need's projects in Syria, Iraq, or any other country where persecution is taking place.

Red Wednesday Objectives

The main objectives are:

- To strengthen the faith of believers through the example of other believers who suffer persecution, but who remain strong in their faith.
- To raise awareness and educate the public about religious freedom and persecution— a fundamental human right protected by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—by drawing on reports produced by Aid to the Church in Need, such as *Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians Oppressed for Their Faith 2022–24* and the *Religious Freedom in the World Report 2025*.*
- To make known the work of Aid to the Church in Need and the various aspects of its mission, especially with persecuted communities around the world.
- To encourage Christians of all ages and traditions to stand up for their faith, to advocate for religious freedom, and to support the right of Christians worldwide to practise their faith peacefully, free from fear, harassment, or obstruction.

***Explore these reports at:**

https://acn-canada.org/publications-2/

PONTIFICAL CHARITY