



25 April 2019

The Most Rev. Julian Winston Sebastian Fernando, S.S.S.
Bishop of Badulla
President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka
19 Balcombe Place
Cotta Road, Borella
Colombo 8
Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Canada, I extend to you our most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers regarding the tragic loss of life and the significant number of injured people during the recent attacks against Roman Catholic churches in Colombo and Negombo, the Zion Church in Batticaloa, and the several hotels and public spaces tragically affected by the terrorist bombings. It was devastating to receive the information of the tragedy on Easter Sunday, when Christians around the world were joined celebrating the Risen Lord and the beauty of the Paschal Mystery.

We mourn the wanton acts of violence that targeted worshippers, families, and visitors, sowing seeds of hate and division in a place of peace and unity which each society should foster and protect. We join our hearts and our voices in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka and in witness of the healing message of God's love for all humanity. Likewise, I wish to share with you a letter of condolence and concern that the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) received from the Canadian Council of Imams (CCI) in response to this tragedy. As a gesture of unity, the CCCB partnered with Canadian Council of Imams and released a joint statement of solidarity condemning these attacks. You will find a copy of this statement enclosed.

As the Catholic communities of Sri Lanka and others begin their efforts to heal in mind and body from these repugnant events, may you find comfort in the consolation and compassion of Our Lord, as well as through the prayers and support offered by your brothers and sisters in Christ from Canada and around the world.

Fraternally in Christ the Good Shepherd,

+Lionel Gendron, P.S.S.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

- Encl: - Message from the Canadian Council of Imams's President, Imam Refaat Mohamed
- Joint Message by Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Canadian Council of Imams