



DIOCESE OF LONDON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DECREE

Having received the recommendation of the Vicar General and the reports of the consultation process conducted with the parishioners of St. Paul Parish in the town of LaSalle in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Paul Parish*), and having consulted with the Council of Priests of the Diocese of London on November 4, 2025, in accordance with canon 1222, §1-2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that the said St. Paul Church in the town of LaSalle in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Paul Church*) be canonically closed and no longer designated as a place for divine worship effective March 21, 2026.

The reasons for this action are:

- St. Paul Church was officially blessed on January 25, 1953, as the parochial church for St. Paul Parish.
- With the canonical suppression of St. Paul Parish effective on March 21, 2026, St. Paul Church will no longer house an existing parish community and will cease to be a parochial church.
- The canonical suppression of a parish is of itself not a justifiable cause for the closure of a church according to the established jurisprudence of the Church in these matters.
- For five of the past six years, St. Paul Parish has been unable to pay their normal operating expenses as a parish and have been operating in a financial deficit, which leaves no funds for the work of evangelization and outreach. A recent building report has determined that the church building requires a roof replacement, new windows and exterior work for an estimated minimum cost of \$380,000. Such a capital cost would further hinder normal operating expenses and place the parish under a heavy financial burden.
- St. Paul Church, a seventy-two-year-old building, does not possess any historic or artistic significance to qualify for any historic designation.

- In sum the needed building repairs and regular maintenance costs required for St. Paul Church is beyond what it can possibly afford. The debt incurred in making these necessary repairs would be unsupportable, impeding the broader pastoral vision for ministry in this region of the town of LaSalle.

I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to dispose of St. Paul Church and the property on which it is situated, taking care to observe faithfully the pertinent civil laws in this regard and the provisions of the *Code of Canon Law* concerning the alienation of temporal goods.

In conformity to the norms set out in canon 121, I further decree that the proceeds from the sale of St. Paul Church and the land on which it is situated obtains and belongs equally to the canonically established parishes into which St. Paul Parish is to be amalgamated, namely Sacred Heart Parish and St. Joseph Parish, the wishes of the founders and benefactors having been duly regarded and taken into consideration.

I direct that this decree be published in St. Paul Parish, Sacred Heart Parish, St. Joseph Parish and by a suitable means throughout the Diocese of London, with the understanding that any who wish to make recourse against it, in accordance with canon 1734, §1-2, must do so in writing within ten (10) canonical days from the time this decree was lawfully notified.

Given at London in the province of Ontario this fifteenth day of January in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

+ *Ronald Tabber CB*
Bishop of London


Chancellor