



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

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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 515, §2, I, Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B., Bishop of London, do hereby decree that the said St. Paul Parish be canonically suppressed, effective March 21, 2026. I further decree that the territorial boundaries of St. Paul Parish, west of Malden Road, LaSalle, be absorbed and amalgamated into those of Sacred Heart Parish in the town of LaSalle in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *Sacred Heart Parish*); and that the territorial boundaries of St. Paul Parish, east of Malden Road, LaSalle, be absorbed and amalgamated into those of St. Joseph Parish in the hamlet of River Canard in the province of Ontario (hereinafter referred to as *St. Joseph Parish*).

The reasons for this action are:

- St. Paul Parish was canonically established in 1952 by Bishop John C. Cody, its territory taken from the southwest portion of Christ the King Parish, Windsor, Ontario. The location of the parish was a secondary option after an initial parish establishment, started in September 1948, failed in the western portion of the parish boundaries due to lack of parishioners.
- Since its establishment, the parish has never experienced significant growth. In 1965, at the height of overall growth in Mass attendance and faith practice in parishes throughout Canada and the United States, the parish numbered only 85 families. In that same year, discussions were held about building a new church for the parish community, but it was decided that there were not enough families in the parish to shoulder the financial burden.
- In the past ten years, St. Paul Parish has seen a steady decline in its sacramental life with fewer than ten baptisms in four of the past six years. The parish grade school next door to the parish church closed in 2002, which added to the difficulties for further growth in sacramental practice. Sunday Mass

attendance in the parish has also dropped by 56% since the year 2019; a significant decrease in a relatively short time period.

- 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.
- These stark realities have led both the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council to recommend to the Bishop of London that St. Paul Parish be canonically suppressed. This recommendation was affirmed in a set of parish meetings held on September 20 and 27, 2025, utilizing the synodal Conversation in the Spirit method, with the vast majority of those participating choosing a new future for the parish within the canonical entity of Sacred Heart Parish and the canonical entity of St. Joseph Parish.
- Both Sacred Heart Parish and St. Joseph Parish are easily accessible to all the parishioners of St. Paul Parish. Consequently, they will not be denied a reasonable locus for the celebration of Mass and the sacraments. Sacred Heart Parish and St. Joseph Parish are both large enough to accommodate readily the parishioners of St. Paul Parish and have sufficient space to provide for its ministries and outreach services.

In conformity to the norms set out in canon 121, I also decree that the patrimonial goods and rights of St. Paul Parish, along with its liabilities, will from the date of its canonical suppression obtain and belong in equal portions to Sacred Heart Parish and St. Joseph Parish, with every care to be taken that in the arrangements for the goods and the discharge of obligations, the wishes of founders and benefactors and any acquired rights are fully safeguarded.

Furthermore, in order to provide easier access to the faithful, I decree that the sacramental records of St. Paul Parish be transferred to and maintained by St. Joseph Parish.


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.

  
Bishop of London



  
Chancellor