



# FROM THE VINEYARD

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**THE SEASON OF LENT BEGAN THIS WEEK**, with our churches well-attended for the Ash Wednesday Masses. Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2023, focused on the Gospel of the Transfiguration, can be found [here](#). The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is once again presenting its "[Journey Through Lent](#)" video series. Archbishop Brian Dunn of Halifax offers a brief online reflection for Ash Wednesday and each Lenten Sunday. These videos will be posted on the CCCB website each Monday of Lent.

**I MET THIS WEEK WITH THE COORDINATORS OF REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP** in our Diocese, dedicated volunteers who manage a complex ministry. Did you know that the Diocese of Peterborough is the only "Sponsorship Agreement Holder" in the Peterborough-Kawartha area? A "SAH" is an organization approved by the federal government as a trusted partner in refugee settlement. In 2015/16, during the Syrian Refugee Crisis, 18 of our Parishes sponsored 83 refugees to come to Canada. Other groups in the Peterborough area accessed our "SAH" to bring 152 more to safety. Many of these sponsors have returned to sponsor again and many of the families they settled are now ready and able to sponsor their loved ones who were left behind. Since 2019 we have welcomed 92 new arrivals from countries like Eritrea, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda. We are still awaiting 65 people whose applications are in process and have had many requests for the year 2023, as the refugee crisis abroad continues to grow.

**ST. JEROME CHURCH IN WARKWORTH** is facilitating a presentation on Truth and Reconciliation. They will welcome Chief David Mowat of Alderville First Nation to the Warkworth Town Hall Center for the Arts, this Wednesday, March 1, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Chief Mowat has an extensive knowledge of local Indigenous history and this presentation and "Q and A" promises to be an informative event. Admission is free, but since seating is limited, you are asked to reserve your place by emailing [TruthandReconciliation@StJeromesWarkworth.ca](mailto:TruthandReconciliation@StJeromesWarkworth.ca). You are also welcome to submit by email a question you would like Chief Mowat to address.

**THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF CANADA** have issued a pastoral letter of appeal today, which marks the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They urge us, "Let us continue our works of mercy for the needy in Ukraine and those who seek refuge here in Canada, as a humble manifestation of our sincere faith and for the greater glory of God." The full text of the letter may be found [here](#).

**IN A RARE MID-WINTER SET OF MOVES**, two priests began new assignments yesterday: Father Dominick Mbah has arrived as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Huntsville and Father Ante Market is the new pastor at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Ennismore. We wish them and their parishioners well! And sincere thanks to Fr. Roy Villas who administered St. Mary's these past two months with the able assistance of Fr. Aji Sebastian, CMI, who lived onsite and provided pastoral ministry there.

Fraternally, † Daniel