



MEDIA STATEMENT – ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

DATE May 25, 2017

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary St. Mary's Church, Grafton, ON

The Diocese of Peterborough announces that following months of consultations within the community of faith and the professional community of architects, engineers and contractors, the Diocesan Property, Planning and Building Committee has decided to remove the spire from the parish church. This decision aligns with efforts to protect the church structure from further damage and takes into account the economic resources available.

The scope of the building project to remove the spire and cap the structure will be released for tender as the next step following release of this decision.

His Excellency Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm visited the parish and says, "While the parish steeple is iconic, it has become damaged over time and has fallen into disrepair which threatens to further harm the building. Given its current state and the financial burden of restoring it, the most prudent option at this time is to remove the steeple and to artfully cap the tower with the cross, the symbol of our faith."

Fr. David West agrees affirming the discussions of the parish community, "We have talked about this for a long time. Each person has a heartfelt opinion about the steeple. We have all had "our say" and now it is time to collectively work together to move this decision forward."

A long-time parishioner of St. Mary's Parish, Richard Holland, says, "I am hopeful that this will bring everyone together and let us focus on the parish's spiritual life knowing that a good decision has been made for the building itself."

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