

Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

**Office of the Bishop
DECREE**

The Most Reverend Daniel J. Miehm
Bishop of Peterborough
decrees

**THE CLOSURE AND SECULAR USAGE OF
ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE MISSION CHURCH IN COBOCONK**

As described in *Christus Dominus*, a parish is characterized by the elements of being a certain community of Christ's faithful, within a particular diocese and stably established for the welfare of souls.

Canon 515 §2 states that only a diocesan Bishop may establish, suppress, or alter a parish, which he is not to do unless he has consulted the council of priests.

Canon 1222 states that a diocesan Bishop may allow a church to be given over to secular usage when there are grave reasons to indicate it can no longer be used for divine worship. He is to do this only after consulting the council of priests, obtaining the consent of those who could lawfully have rights over the church, and ensuring that the good of souls will not be harmed by the transfer.

In reviewing the pertinent statistics and realities of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Mission, Coboconk (a mission church of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Kirkfield) it has been determined that demographics, finances, and pastoral conditions do not justify its continued operation. The people presently cared for at St. Margaret Mary Mission can be effectively cared for at the parish church of St. John the Evangelist in Kirkfield.

Therefore, having received the request of the pastor and finance council of St. John the Evangelist Parish, and after having consulted with the council of priests of the Diocese of Peterborough and determining that the other provisions of canon 1222 have been met, I decree that the mission church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Coboconk is to be closed and given over to secular usage.

The pastor and finance council of St. John the Evangelist Parish may proceed with the sale of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church, under the direction of the Diocesan Director of Finance, Property and Administration, ensuring that that, in accord with canon 1222, the church is not used for an unbecoming purpose. The temporal goods belonging to St. Margaret Mary Mission Church remain the property of St. John the Evangelist Parish who will administer them according to the norms of canon law. Care should be taken to safeguard all sacred and precious goods, in accord with canon 1220 §2.

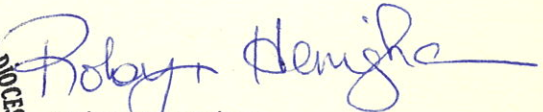
This decree takes effect on the 15th day of January, 2024.

Given at Peterborough, this 11th day in the month of January in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four.



+ Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop, Diocese of Peterborough





Robyn Henighan
Vice-Chancellor

+DJM/dlt