



# FROM THE VINEYARD

Newsletter No. 322; March 20, 2026

I HAVE APPOINTED FATHER CYPRIAN IJEZIE, MSP, as the temporary administrator of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wooler and Holy Angels' Parish in Brighton. These parishes have been vacant since the untimely passing of Father Collins Okafor, SMMM, who died last month while enroute home from Nigeria. Father Cyprian, a Missionary of St. Paul, has served as the associate pastor of St. Mary's in Huntsville since last summer. I am grateful to him and the leadership of his religious congregation for agreeing to this appointment and fulfilling an urgent pastoral need in our diocese.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN CAMPBELLFORD has been hosting a four-night series in Lent, with speakers reflecting on the meaning of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I was pleased to be part of that series earlier this week, which has also included Father Peter Lukow, Father Peter Bissonnette, and Sister Mary Rowell, CSJ. My (more or less) brief talk was followed by a time of Eucharistic adoration and Confessions. Sincere thanks to Father Bill Moloney and parishioners of St. Mary's for their very kind welcome!

THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS is returning to Peterborough on Good Friday, April 3rd. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, the young people of the diocese will present the Stations of the Cross along Hunter St., leading to Immaculate Conception Church in on Rogers St. in east city. All are welcome to be part of this prayerful Holy Week celebration, which is now a local tradition of more than twenty years!

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS met at the Diocesan Pastoral Center this Wednesday, as they do about four times a year. This key group for consultation in the diocese is made up of the four deans (of the geographic "deaneries" or regions) and several members elected by the priests of the diocese. I always enjoy these discussions and appreciate the insights and experience of the priests who give of their time to serve on this important body.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE CHRISM MASS which will be celebrated at our Cathedral on Monday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. The faithful of the diocese are always welcome to attend this major Holy Week liturgy which is, among other things, a celebration of the priesthood. Priests and deacons are reminded to RSVP to the invitation that was sent by email last week.

THERE ARE STILL A COUPLE OF WEEKS OF LENT REMAINING, and this Lenten Handbook prepared by our Cathedral staff is a wonderful online resource – for any of us who made need a "booster shot" by this point in the season!

I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH in Cardiff this Sunday, when I will bless the new tabernacle at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. I told Father Darlington Oparaike that I am merely praying that the snowy weather subsides for my drive!

*Fraternally,  
+Daniel*