



## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



**Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie**

**Anglican  
Diocese of Algoma**

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**Communications Contacts:**

Fr. Daniele Muscolino [d.muscolino@ssmd.ca](mailto:d.muscolino@ssmd.ca) | 705-495-1501  
Archdeacon Jay Coyle [congdevelopment@dioceseofalgoma.com](mailto:congdevelopment@dioceseofalgoma.com)  
705-256-5061, ext. 22

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **CATHOLICS AND ANGLICANS IN CALLANDER TO SHARE ONE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

*St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Callander to welcome Anglican neighbours after  
building facing structural issues*

CALLANDER, ON – Not having a home to celebrate Christmas was a worry for Rev. Kevin McAllister, incumbent at St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Callander, after the 131-year old building faced a number of structural issues.

St. Peter’s Church, built in 1890, was temporarily closed by the Diocese of Algoma, to review current issues with the church building.

With Christmas celebrations up in the air, the Anglican congregation turned to their Catholic neighbours at St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, located across the same street in Callander.

“I knew we had to do something to help,” said Fr. Daniele Muscolino, Pastor of St. Alphonsus Liguori since 2018, “so we’ve opened our home to our neighbours in time for Christmas.”

Both Fr. McAllister and Fr. Muscolino have been working together to arrange a seamless transition for both communities.

“The Catholic community has shown incredible grace and hospitality in our time of need by giving us a home,” said Fr. McAllister, who only recently arrived at St. Peter’s Church in October. “Our community being without a home brings to mind the struggle of Mary and Joseph who had no place to go, appropriate for this time of year.”

“Our community of Callander is strengthened when we work together, and so is the faith we share in Jesus Christ,” said Fr. Muscolino, “as we anticipate the birth of Jesus that brings joy into our lives, we’re happy to share that joy with our brothers and sisters at St. Peter’s.”

Both Bishop Thomas Dowd, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and Archbishop Anne Germond, of the Anglican Diocese of Algoma, have expressed their approval and delight of the new arrangement.

“It is beautiful when people live the Gospel, and that is what is going on here” added Fr. McAllister.

The lights at St. Alphonsus will be shining bright on Christmas Eve, as St. Peter’s will offer an Anglican service at 5pm, while St. Alphonsus will celebrate Catholic Mass the same evening at 8pm.

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**Additional Information for Media:**

*Contacts:*     **Fr. Daniele Muscolino**  
Communications Contact  
Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie  
[d.muscolino@ssmd.ca](mailto:d.muscolino@ssmd.ca)  
705-495-1501

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705-256-5061, ext. 22

*Online:*       [www.dioceseofsaultstемarie.org](http://www.dioceseofsaultstемarie.org)

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**Supplied Photo:** St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, located at 163 High Street in Callander.

