



**Bishop's House, Marriott Street, Northampton NN2 6AW**

Tel: 01604 715635 Fax: 01604 711641 Email: [admin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:admin@northamptondiocese.com)  
Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 234091

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Father Tony Brennan  
St Mary's  
82 West Street  
Dunstable  
LU6 1NY

Dear Father Tony

As you will know from your roles as a Diocesan Trustee and as the Chair of the Council of Priests, because of the reduction in the number of our priests, we are having to close a number of chapels of ease around the Diocese.

At present, some of our large parishes do not have sufficient priests and that includes the Dunstable parish following the withdrawal of the Vincentian Fathers.

Before Christmas Bishop Peter and the Vicar General looked at the provision in the Dunstable parish and came to the conclusion that the time had come to close the church of St Elizabeth of Hungary in Toddington. Given a new Bishop was due to be appointed, as a courtesy, Bishop Peter delayed the announcement of this decision.

I have now reviewed the situation and am writing to confirm that decision to close the church. I realise that the decision is heart breaking especially for the Catholic community in Toddington.

However, I hope and pray that the wider parish will flourish, and that this decision will prompt some younger men will be open to the call to the Priesthood.

With every blessing

Bishop of Northampton