

Dear Parishioners,

Our Parish of The Sacred Heart and Our Lady will have been in existence for 196 years on the 11th July 2023! It is the oldest Catholic Church in Northamptonshire.

How would you feel if Masses were no longer said in Aston le Walls and Kings Sutton by this time next year? How can we all ensure that this doesn't happen?

Have you ever wondered what has kept our Parish going all these years? Yes, there have been ups and downs, but we have been blessed with some wonderful priests and a committed congregation who have been happy to give of their time, not just by coming to Mass, but in helping to make sure that the priest feels supported and the church is run along diocesan guide lines. This support has been invaluable and we owe them all an enormous debt of gratitude!!

Whilst we are still very fortunate in having a priest, sadly our numbers have greatly depleted, threatening the very existence of our parish. This has had the effect of a very few of us doing all that they can to keep it going, but like everyone else, they are busy people and have come to the conclusion that if they remain unsupported then this cannot continue and our church will have to close.

This decision is not being taken lightly, we have a beautiful church which many of us have loved and supported for years, but there must be more willing volunteers involved who are prepared to give their help on a regular basis. With all of this in mind, we are asking you to take this matter seriously and come forward with your ideas and your support.

We are particularly aware that there are Catholic parents who have children at the school and we would like to see more families in church. Would it make a difference if Fr Jose said a Saturday evening Mass commencing in September? Would this be helpful? We need answers please!

To give everyone an opportunity to air their views and make constructive suggestions, you are invited to attend a meeting in Sacred Heart and Our Lady Church on Thursday 13th July at 7pm.

Please be sure to reply to this email, in advance of this date, so that we have some idea of numbers attending. If you are unable to come, please be sure to email us with your thoughts and reactions.

The Parish Pastoral Council