

Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby

Dear Parishioners,

Many thanks for your warm welcome to me since my arrival and for all your ongoing help in many areas. It has been a great help that you are well organised and quite self-sufficient in many areas which shows a spiritual centre at the heart of the parish that is most essential.

In these first few months it has been a case of just observing and seeing how things work and tick over. However, I would now like to hold an open meeting to discuss a few areas where I think some work needs to be done. But before I do so I thought I should give you some time to think about them.

Structure/Purpose of the Church and Decoration

1. Structure of the Church: Some areas that need long term consideration.
 - a. At the moment, we struggle to hold meetings at the Church especially in Winter as there is no really suitable place. The sacristy needs work and a better place needs to be found to store our vestments.
 - b. There is no really suitable place to hear confessions.
 - c. It is difficult to combine in the long term, social events with the Church being a consecrated building.
2. Decoration: Spilsby has need an uplift for a while and after talking to Gabriel Gillick during our quinquennial, I think there is a much better cost alternative. Rather than a costly attempt to stop the ingress of damp, we decide rather that it means it will have to be re-decorated that more often.

There are several options that might be possible: selling off part of our land to finance a separate church hall. Redesigning the interior to address some of the issues listed above. I realise that cost will of course be an important factor. I don't have an easy answer and I know that you have considered various options in the past.

Implementing the Bishop's Directives

1. Given the geographical distribution of parishioners, it requires a different approach to taking the parish forward not just on the topic of evangelisation but also of ongoing formation and prayer. It is difficult for people at times to always have to come to Spilsby. Therefore, it will be worth discussing clustering groups around certain villages and forming what could be called parish groups or cells.
2. We also need to work through some basics at raising our profile and presence; e.g. a proper parish notice board.

Miscellaneous

1. The fire inspection and quinquennial have brought up areas that need some work on to bring our infrastructure up to scratch.
2. Certain things we are lacking for the Liturgy.

I would like to have a small group of people that would be prepared to oversee the implementation of these various areas after we have discussed them. This would be most useful to me in particular. In addition there may be some other points you would like to be raised in which case please see me. I think the best time would be either a Wednesday evening or a Saturday morning but am open to suggestions.

Let us pray through this peacefully and thoughtfully asking for God's guidance. God bless, Fr. Dominic