

# *St Luke's in the City*

## **Celebrating at the Crossroads**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, 16 December 2007**

Dear Friends,

What a momentous and marvellous parish event we have celebrated, in the priesting and first presiding at eucharist of our Priest Assistant, James Edward McKenna! My thanks to every one of you for the varied ways in which you have participated in this event, but especially to those who worked very hard to make Tuesday night such a special milestone for both Jim and the parish. Now it's back to Advent!

For each of us there will be a unique dimension to this particular Christmas, that flesh-taking for which we watch and wait with expectation and hope. Each of us will be aware of a call from within, a call from the God who desires to make a home within us. The dimensions and nature of that call will be tailor-made to our particular circumstances. The flesh-taking will be exactly what each of us needs. Our individual vocation is to listen and look, to be still and attentive and un-cluttered enough to notice. At the end of today's gospel fragment Jesus concludes with this unnerving instruction: "Let anyone with ears listen!" Christ is coming, within, always in an unexpected and unwanted guise. Listen! Look! The one thing we can expect is that Christ will speak that word within us we'd rather not hear. Let anyone with ears listen! Collectively, what is the word the Coming One is speaking to the Diocese of Christchurch as we look to February's Electoral College? What is Christ's word, barely audible above the raucous shouting, to the Anglican Communion? What is Christ's word to the nations, obsessed with economic growth above all else? And what is the Coming One's word to our parish as we undertake the last phase of our Mission and Ministry Review? Let anyone with ears listen!

In the middle of the night on the 24th December the church invites us to gather for the second most important liturgy of the year. We make the effort to celebrate Christ's Mass in the middle of the night because that's the nature of the symbol of the Incarnation. One is coming who is unexpected, vulnerable, a tiny baby coming in darkness. The symbol is the container of a profound and deep wisdom which practicality, expediency and convenience will never comprehend. Let us trust the symbols of the Midnight Mass to be our guide, that we may hear the small voice of the Coming One in our own souls, in this parish, in the church and the world. Let anyone with ears listen!

With my love,  
David