



*St Luke's in the City*

150 years - 2009

# **Celebrating at the Crossroads**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

### **30 March 2008**

Dear Friends,

In just a few weeks time, following our Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Sunday 20 April), I will be departing for Study Leave. Originally planned for 2006, the remedial works and legal battle over our house put those plans on hold. With that four and a half year episode having been concluded last June, it became possible once again to make study plans. Not surprisingly, I suppose, my 2006 plans went the way of all things. In their wake came a most unexpected opportunity to work one-to-one for three months with a priest, systematic theologian, and Jungian Analyst. Dr John Dourley is a member of the Religious Order the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religion at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, and graduate of the C G Jung Institute in Zurich. The extraordinary thing is that he has held together those three roles – priest, theologian, and Jungian analyst – having written several books around their interface. His ready willingness to work with me for three months 'sealed the deal'!

St John's College Trust Board had already granted funds for undertaking M.Theol. studies, which were 'on hold', and which they generously consented to being re-directed. The Diocesan Clergy Professional Development Fund offered some support. Affordable accommodation became available at St Paul's Seminary in Ottawa. All parishes make monthly contributions to the Diocesan Study Leave Fund, which means that when a priest takes approved Study Leave the priest's stipend is paid by the Fund, not the parish. The necessary practical elements having fallen into place I booked flights to Ottawa! I depart Christchurch on Monday 21 April, will spend a couple of days in Toronto with old friends, reside at St Paul's Seminary in Ottawa from 24th of April until the end of July, then conclude by taking my annual leave with family in Perth - arriving just in time for daughter Leah's 21st birthday!

I am most grateful for such a tremendous opportunity, and acknowledge my appreciation of the support from Bishop David, St John's College Trust Board, the Diocesan Study Leave Committee, and most especially to Fr Jim, Churchwardens Jenny & Alan, and Vestry for their encouragement. During my absence the Bishop has appointed The Venerable Peter Axcell as the locum priest, on a half-time basis. Peter joins us at the Eucharist this morning, and will do so again on my last Sunday before departure.

With my love,  
David