



*St Luke's in the City*

150 years - 2009

# **Celebrating at the Crossroads**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

15 February 2009

### **Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday**

Thankfully, the lunar calendar has given us a little more breathing space this year between Candlemass and the start of Lent. It is a privilege to be able to welcome Br Howard LBF as we embark upon Lent – he will preach at both Ash Wednesday and Lent 1 liturgies, lead us in the Day of Prayer, and offer 2 public addresses at Theology House.

I hope that we can all begin Lent on the first day, at the Liturgy of Ashes - 6pm 25 February. Details of all the liturgies and events of the Lent-Easter season are available in the seasonal guide booklet.

Along with the change in liturgical space and simplified liturgy, all of this is intended to assist us to enter into a prayerful and meditative time, that we may enter as deeply as possible into that Spirit-charged experience of wilderness which was way of preparation for Jesus the pioneer and guide of our faith. Lent is not an attempt to flee from the reality of the world, but as a conscious *ascesis* (exercise, effort) to enter more fully the reality of the world, increasingly attentive to the astonishing and liberating work of the Spirit in all things. It is helpful to set for ourselves a 'Lenten Rule', a pattern of *ascesis* appropriate to our circumstances, prior to Ash Wednesday.

Now is the time to get ready.

*Fr David*