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My Lord Bishop,

I dont know whether I have misunderstood the process or not, but I feel I need to write before you meet on Thursday - you all have really moved swiftly!

As when I last spoke to you, I still feel Penshurst could do well with someone other than me as Pastor. I threw my hat into the ring for that reason. I had spoken to Paddy Bohan, and he felt that was sufficient indication. I had had a good chat with Paddy about what he felt was the best thing for me to do his initial reaction, which he has voiced before to me, was wondering whether I was in the right sort of pastoral work ...that is in a parish. Now I realise circumstances etc do determine possibilities here in the diocese and so on, and I accept that. But I am worried - for reasons I talked about to you before. Principally I know I have to carefully look at the whole structure of where and how I work and focus myself - that is the legacy that you helped me discover with John Kinnane so long ago. I suppose that is why I applied for Warrnambool - because I know the circumstances of work there etc - this is not a comment on Brian's appointment which I think is an excellent choice. However, what Paddy said to me weighs heavily on my mind, and I wonder if I really should'nt look to another expression of ministry, if not possible here for the time - then back in the U.S., where as you know more particular ministries are a feature.

While this perhaps needs to be talked over more with your counsel, I dont wish to hold up or complicate later the shifts - I didn't realise everything would happen before Christmas. I dont particularly enjoy feeling this way; but I cannot do anything about it - I am the way God made me, and have long accepted that and am comfortable with it - but it also complicates things - oh you do not know how I would rather things were different and, also to not make things difficult for you because you have been a good friend - I suppose that is why I can write even now to you - it would be rotten if you weren't so helpful. I suppose Mal was right when he said life was'nt meant to be easy!

I'll leave this here. I have first confessions on Wed night in Hawkesdale, and here on Thursday night, or I would have come up there. I will be around in the day, and of course after the services.

*Yours in Christ
Paul-David Ryan*