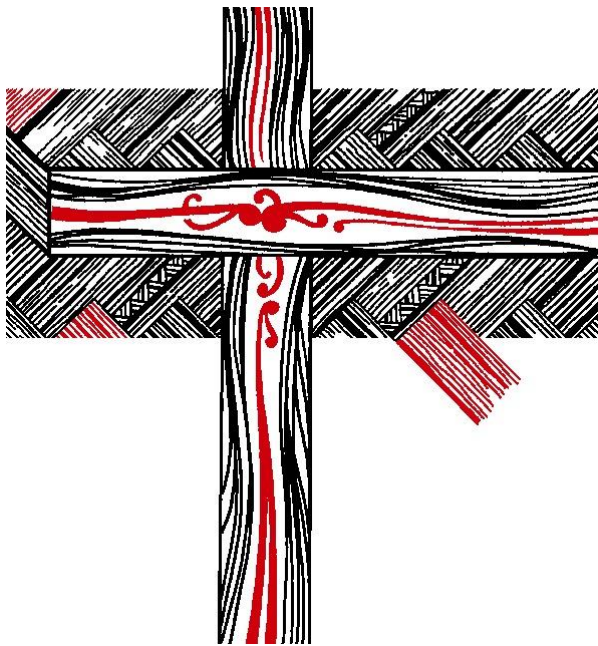


SORRY, GOD

(See pages 406-408, or 459-560, or 478-479).

Having prepared ourselves to encounter God we remind ourselves how far we are removed, by nature, from “matiness,” chumminess with God. Have we perfectly fulfilled the command to love? Have we perfectly fulfilled the Ten Commandments? The New Testament authors were painfully aware that the answer to both questions was ‘no.’



So we set about saying ‘sorry’ to God, not only for what we individually have done wrong, but for what we as a human race are doing wrong: ‘**we** have sinned.’

Having confessed our sin (the word simply means ‘shortfalling,’ we ‘ain’t good enough to get there’) we hear the priest say God’s words of forgiveness. God forgives us. We are yet imperfect, this side of heaven, but God forgives us. That is grace.

Some Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) liturgies have a different pattern: only after the readings and the sermon do we recognize our sin. Outside Lent and Advent I prefer to emphasize that the grace of God precedes—pretty much—any work on our part. All we need to do is recognize that we are not as good as we should be, and say sorry.



Diocese of Dunedin

Responding to God’s Call in Otago and Southland:
Faith Communities reading the Bible, praying, living out the life of Jesus Christ