

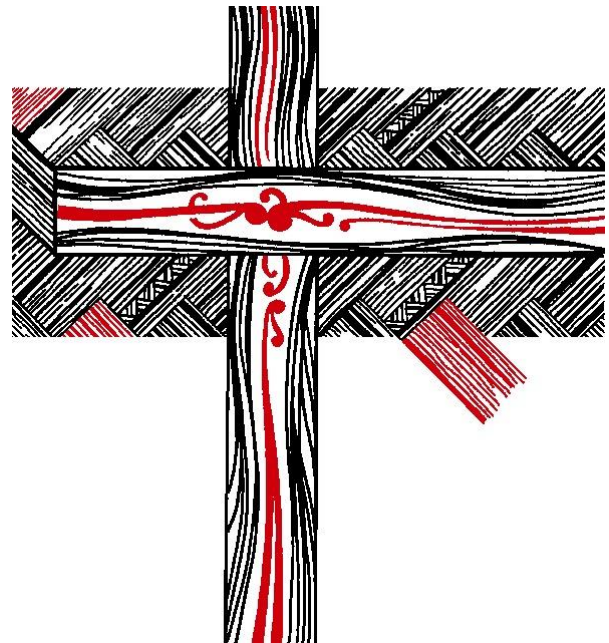
## TAKE, BLESS, BREAK, DISTRIBUTE...

(see page 425, 471, 489)

In one of the ancient collects of the Church we ask God to 'take, bless, break and distribute us.' We become Christ's body and blood in the world, as James K. Baxter once put it, and the actions conducted by the priest over bread and wine imitate God's action in our lives. We too are taken, blessed, broken, distributed and poured out in our service of the God who breathes hope and purpose into our lives.

Ancient arguments about what actually happens to the bread and wine sadly split the Church over a misconception. The Hebrew world in which Jesus blessed and broke the bread was not interested in the material content held in Jesus' hands. It was interested in believing that the whole history of God's saving love was present in these actions. This is not about physical change to bread and wine but about spiritual change to and in bread, wine, and us: 'they will be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.'

Bread and wine: these are a foretaste of the Great Banquet of the For Ever Time. These are a glimpse of eternity in the present: the body/blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. The body/blood of Christ keep you in eternal life, that life which we glimpse and taste as we touch these holy gifts of God.



## 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