

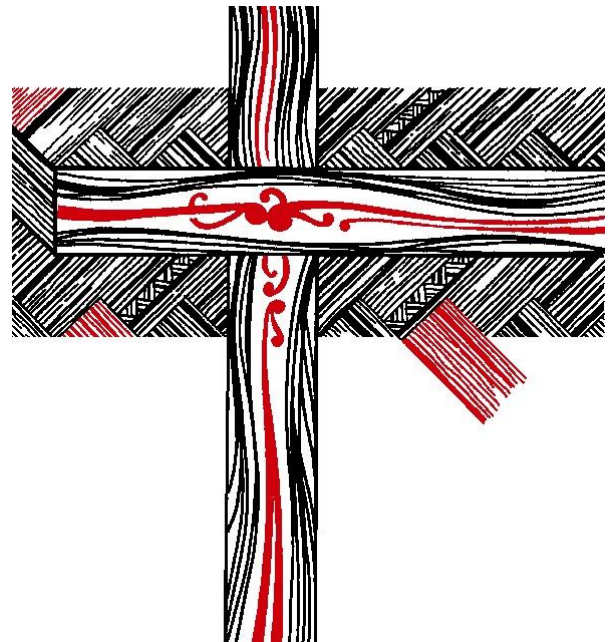
AFTER THE SERMON... WHAT?

The readings speak to us of 'the story of the people of God,' and the sermon should break open the word, throwing us links between the ancient world and our own. But as the sermon comes to an end the work is not complete.

This is not a time to rush. It should at this point be obligatory to introduce into the liturgy a time of silence: has the sermon touched you? Has it failed to touch you? Either way here is an opportunity to be still in the presence of God, away from the clutter of words and noise and more words and more noise that is our world. God's 'voice,' an inaudible guidance perhaps of your thoughts in the silence, may just get a look-in if we allow forty or sixty seconds of stillness, of silence. Be still, for the presence of the Lord ...

Liturgical silence though is not the absence of noise. If a child is playing and making noise, that's okay—put

away that glare which could well ensure that the parents of that child never return. Someone's coughing? Too bad: whisper a prayer in your mind and get on with being still in the presence of God. Silence is about you ... about pausing momentarily, and opening your consciousness to 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