

## A WORD ABOUT EASTER RITES

Easter rites each year should follow a quite distinctive and different liturgical form: the English book *Lent, Holy Week and Easter* contains the best lay-out that I know of, but there must be room for local idiosyncrasies: these suggestions are my own.

*Rejoice O Earth,  
in shining Splendour  
radiant in the  
brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered!  
Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!*

There are no words big enough for Easter. That's why there are so many misunderstandings when we try to use words. There are no words big enough to contain the Word.

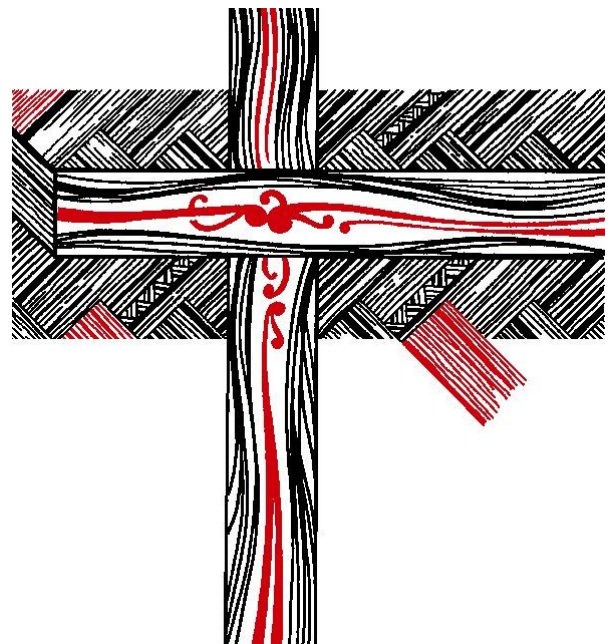
So, at Easter: Why we shouldn't do what we normally do. Again: I refer to Easter, that most mysterious and life and hope-breathing of all days. Easter.

There are, it's true, recognizable elements in the Easter liturgy: the overall shape is the same as ever, with confession and prayer and thanksgiving. The sermon though becomes a song, Anglican decorum is replaced with holy madness and

creative chaos, and even spotless cleanliness becomes the wreckage of a party.

Why?

Because we are surprised by joy: because death is rendered powerless, and sorrow, even the greatest sorrows of a groaning universe, no longer have the final word. Bring on the sparklers, the poppers, the chicken and champagne: Christ is risen, and the party of eternity has begun. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!



## 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