



# The Sacrament of the Future

*SJ George Vass*

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## **The Sacrament of the Future** SJ George Vass

The Sacrament of the Future is a contemporary examination of the theory and praxis of sacraments undertaken in the belief that a renewed understanding of them will shape the survival of the faith in the changed circumstances of the twenty-first century. This new perspective is the eschatological character of the sacraments: by retaining the tension between time and eternity in our present life, sacraments anticipate the future fulfilment of salvation in heaven. The association of the two classical treatises of Sacramental Theology and the doctrine of Last Things will alter our approach not only to the sacraments, but also to other important tenets of Christian theology. This book is the result of half a lifetime's work in presenting and critically analysing Karl Rahner's theological thought. Professor George Vass has not confined himself to the detailed exposition of the thought of his predecessor but, through a critical analysis of his views, tries to enter into dialogue with him. Professor Vass, Fellow of Heythrop College, University of London, and for twenty years holder of Karl Rahner's chair at the University of Innsbruck, entered the Society of Jesus in 1946, and obtained his qualifications in Philosophy and Theology at various European universities. He taught at Heythrop College, Oxon, and the University of London, before his call to the University of Innsbruck in 1976. In 1996 he became Professor Emeritus of the chair of Dogmatic and Ecumenical Theology. Since then he has been Parish Priest within the diocese of Tyrol, Austria.

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