

The Following Collect, Epistle & Gospel will be read during the Eucharist today in the personal Chapel of the Presiding Archbishop of the Australian Church of Antioch, The Most Reverend Frank Bugge.

The Sunday before Lent (Quinquagesima)

Red.

Intent - Holy Spirit as Fire of Love

Candles Many.

The Collect.

O mighty power of wisdom and love, we pray that you will one day clothe us in the robe of enlightenment, and lead us to the path which is our particular road to your mansion, we ask this through the promise of Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Epistle for Quinquagesima is from the Apostle Paul.

If I have not love I am as brass and not gold. If I have the gift of prophecy, understand the mystery, and all the knowledge, and have faith to move mountains, but still not love; I am nothing. Though I bestow my goods to the poor, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love is long suffering, it is kind, it envies not, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, is not easily provoked, it thinks no evil, but rejoices in the truth, bears all things. Love never fails, but ever endures.

Here Endeth the Epistle

The Gospel for Quinquagesima is from the words of Bishop Raymond.

The Love of the Holy Spirit is like a fire. A flint creating the smallest spark can be touched to tinder, and soon a roaring fire can be built. Given suitable fuel it soon becomes like a raging bushfire consuming all before it. But if the small spark is touched to stone it will not ignite, and the spark is cooled and drops to earth without generating a fire. Only in receptive material will the fire live on. Is not this like God's love? If we accept God's love and in return give out what love we are capable of, God will enter within us and make our love grow to amazing proportions and devour all hate and nastiness before it. If we reject God's love, then just like the flint God waits until more suitable material is near. The wonderful thing here is that there is always a flint waiting to start the fire, just as God is always waiting to donate his spark of love to start us.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.