

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 5th Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)

Violet.

Intent - Mystery of the Cross

Candles 6.

The Collect.

Heavenly and Holy One, we thy flock ask of thee to allow us to carry the power of the cross, and the wisdom to use it to your best interests, this we ask in the name of our Saviour the Christ. Amen.

Be with us O Lord in all our doings and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy Name through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle for the 5th Sunday in Lent is from the writings of Annie Besant.

In the church today one of the most common cleansing agents is used --- water. Over this water a mantra is pronounced, the sign of the cross is made over it also. The word of power over the water is Amen, followed by the sign of power which is the sign of the cross. The word followed by the sign of the cross gives to the water a property it did not previously have. It is now rightly called Holy Water. The dark powers will not approach it; marked on the body in the sign of the cross, or merely sprinkled on the body it gives a sense of peace and conveys a new spiritual life. When baptism occurs the spiritual energy given to the water by the word and the sign of the cross reinforces the spiritual life of the baptised one. When the sign of the cross is placed upon the head, a seeing person can observe the difference in the subtle bodies of the recipient. These vibrations form a guardian wall against adverse influences in the higher worlds, and every time the sign of the cross is used, especially with the use of Holy Water, the energy vibrations are renewed bringing aid to the receiver. The sign of the cross is the agent of consecration of the Holy Sacrament, and practically all of the blessings and consecrations of the Church. The mystery of the cross is the power that it bestows when called upon in the name of God.

Here Endeth The Epistle.

The Gospel for the 5th Sunday in Lent is from the recorded words of Bishop Leadbeater.

The power of the cross is used to impress the will of the priest upon the person or object with which they are dealing. It is a sign through which power flows, sometimes from a priest to another; sometimes from on high to the priest, as at certain parts of the service. When a person makes a cross over themselves it promotes self collectedness; and reminds us of the name of which it symbolises, and helps them to realize that where the name is invoked we trust that no evil shall ensue. It is a miniature creed expressed in action instead of words. Those on the highest level may not need a reminder of this sort; but we must realize that most of us are not yet perfect and therefore always in need of anything that will give us assistance. The mark of the cross aids in driving away all unwholesome thoughts and influences. We are

not yet saints; therefore in our imperfection the sign of the cross made over ourselves will help us to draw to us influences to drive away the unpleasant, and retain the good.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.