

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.

Ash Wednesday (The First day of Lent)

Violet.

Intent - Purification

Candles 6.

Before the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the celebrant, or ranking clergy present, blesses the ashes of unused crosses from the previous Palm Sunday, with the following prayer and blessing:

P. May God be with You.

C. And Also with You.

P. O eternal and immortal God, who has deigned to ordain that thy children should purify themselves in preparation of the ineffable mystery of the passion and resurrection of The Logos, we pray Thee to (+) Bless and (+) Hallow these ashes, that they may serve as an outer symbol of our inward humility and repentance from our ways of imperfection and darkness, through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant then shall call for the members of the congregation to receive the signing of the ashes in the following manner:

P. Let those who are about to receive the symbol of Lenten purification come forward.

The Priest signs the forehead of each person with the ashes in the form of a cross while saying to each one:

P. Remember O Soul, that thy body is dust, and to dust it shall return.

The Eucharist is now commenced and is that ordained for the first Sunday in Lent.

The Collect.

Be with us 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 and Gospel shall be those for the previous Sunday.

The Epistle for Ash Wednesday 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 Ash Wednesday 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.