

the Cross. A Jew thought he could say nothing worse to a Christian than that "Your Master was crucified." But Christians, instead of being ashamed, gloried in the Cross. They used to sign themselves with it on all sorts of occasions. The early Christian writers often mention the custom. It has come down to ourselves. We make the Sign of the Cross to show that we are not ashamed of CHRIST Crucified, and to remind ourselves that we must take up our own cross. The Sign of the Cross, if it is made reverently, never fails to drive away evil thoughts. In making it we touch first our forehead, then our breast, then our left shoulder, and lastly our right shoulder.

There is no ceremony used by the Church in public worship which is more Scriptural than the use of *Incense*. All the arguments in favour of having music in Church apply equally to Incense. Incense was ordered by GOD to be used by the Jews (Exod. xxx. 7-9, Levit. xvi. 12, 13). It is mentioned in the Psalms. David says, "Let my prayer be set forth in Thy Sight as the Incense" (Ps. cxli. 2). The prophet Malachi, speaking of Christian times, says: "In every place Incense shall be offered unto My Name and a Pure Offering, for My Name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of Hosts" (Mal. i. 11). The "Pure Offering" means the Holy Eucharist, the chief service of the Church, because it is then especially that Incense is used. The Wise Men offered Incense to our LORD in His cradle (St. Matt. ii. 11). In St. John's vision of Heaven we read about Incense. In Rev. viii. 3, it says: "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much Incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all Saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." And in Rev. v. 8, "The four Living Creatures (R.V.) and four and twenty Elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of Saints." Now, what does the Incense mean? Sometimes people say that it represents prayer. This is a mistake. It represents the merits of CHRIST. It is the "golden vials" (or censers) which are compared to the prayers of Saints (or baptised Christians). Just as in a censer the Incense is offered to GOD, so in our prayers we plead the merits of CHRIST. As when we say "through JESUS CHRIST." The Incense is to be offered "with the prayers of Saints." And thus incense when it is used