

After which, he kneels as before, and the Litanies are concluded.

When the Litanies are over the Bishop rises, mitred, and standing near the water and salt, which have been prepared, he blesses them in the following manner :

Form of Blessing the Holy Water.

P. Our help be in the name of the Lord.

B. Who made Heaven and Earth, Exorcism of the Salts.

‘I exorcise thee, O creature of salt, by the living ✠ God, by the true ✠ God, by the holy ✠ God ; by that God, who by the prophet Eliseus commanded thee to be cast into the water to cure its barrenness ; that thou mayst by this exorcism be made beneficial to the faithful, and become to all of those who make use of thee, healthful both to soul and body ; and that in what place soever thou shalt be sprinkled, all illusions and wickedness and crafty wiles of Satan may be chased away, and depart from that place ; and every unclean spirit commanded in his name, who is to come to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire. Amen.

‘ Let us pray.

‘O Almighty and everlasting God, we most humbly implore thy infinite mercy that thou wouldst vouchsafe by thy power to bless ✠ and to sanctify ✠ this by thy creature of salt, which thou hast given for the use of mankind ; that it may be to all who take it, for the health of mind and body ; and that whatever shall be sprinkled with it may be freed from all uncleanness, and from

all assaults of wicked spirits, through our Lord Jesus Christ,’ &c.

After this he proceeds to the blessing of the water as follows.

The Exorcism of the Water.

‘I exorcise thee, O creature of water, in the name of God ✠ the Father Almighty, and in the name of Jesus Christ ✠ his Son our Lord, and in the virtue of the Holy ✠ Ghost ; that thou mayst, by this exorcism, have power to chase away all the power of the enemy ; that thou mayst be enabled to cast him out, and put him to flight with all his apostate angels, by the virtue of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. Amen.

‘ Let us pray.

‘O God, who for the benefit of mankind hast made use of the element of water in the greatest sacraments, mercifully hear our prayers, and impart the virtue of thy blessing ✠ to this element, prepared by many kinds of purification ; that this thy creature, made use of in thy mysteries, may receive the effect of thy divine grace, for the chasing away devils, and curing diseases ; and that whatsoever shall be sprinkled with this water in the houses or places of the faithful, may be free from all uncleanness, and delivered from evil : let no pestilential spirit reside there, no infectious air : let all the snares of the hidden enemy fly away : and may whatever envies the safety, or repose of the inhabitants of that place be put to flight by the sprinkling of this water, that the welfare which we seek by the invocation of thy holy name, may be defended from all sorts of assaults, through our Lord Jesus Christ,’ &c.