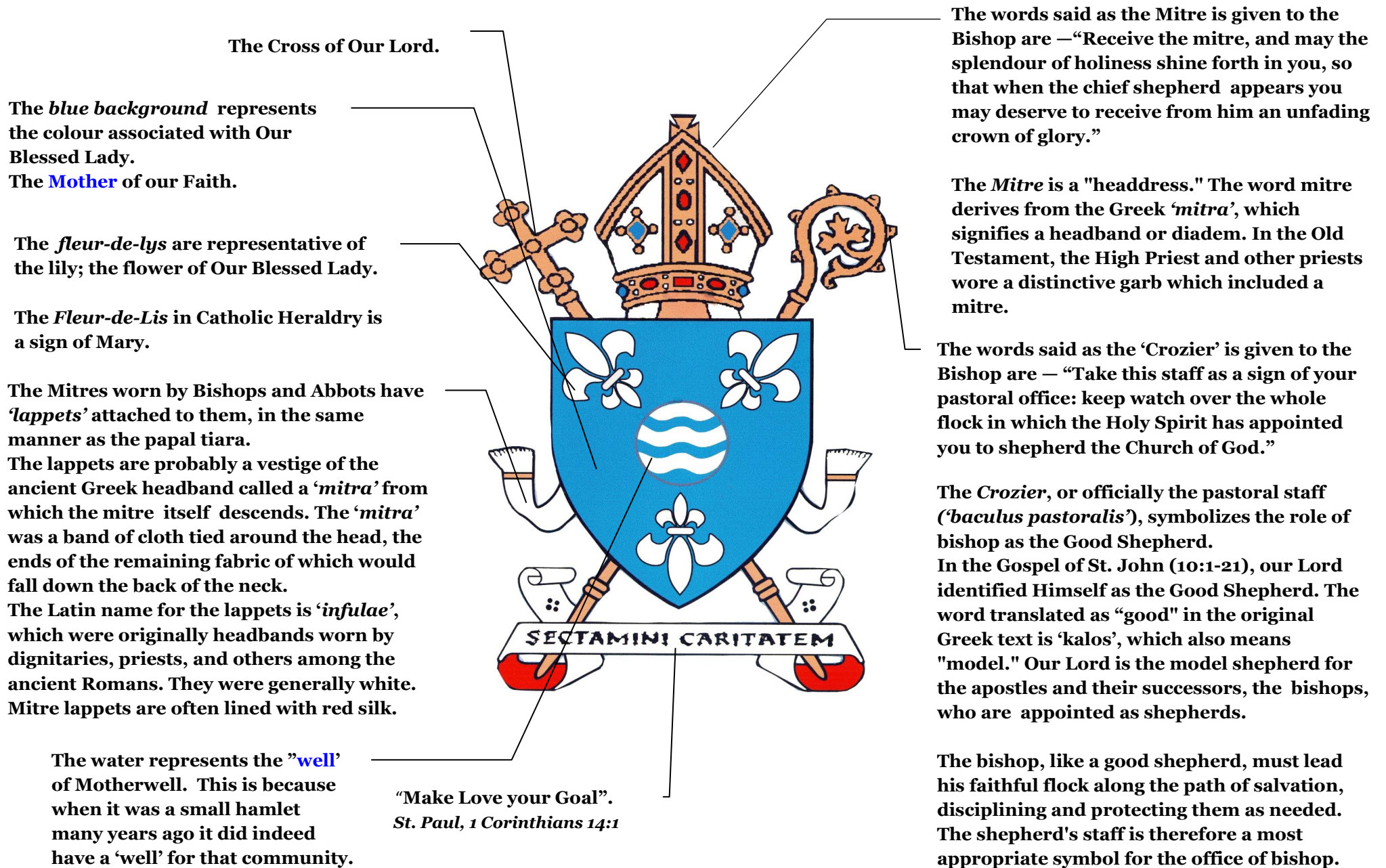


Diocese of [Motherwell](#)—Coat of Arms



Diocese of Motherwell—Coat of Arms

Every Diocese and every Bishop has their own Coat of Arms and Motto . They choose what it should convey literally and symbolically.

Our Bishop has clearly shown in the choice of his shield that he is celebrating the beautiful blue of Our Blessed Lady, the **Mother** of Our God, with the Fleur-de-Lys representing the flowers of Our Blessed Lady and the water symbol representing the **well** that was part of this community in the early days of Christianity.

Coats of Arms

The origin of the Coat of Arms was a jacket or tabard worn by a mediaeval Knight over his armour in order to identify himself. Nowadays the expression "Coat of Arms" is generally applied to what is officially called an "Achievement", which consists of various parts: a shield, helmet, mantling, wreath, crest, motto and sometimes supporters and decorations.

A Coat of Arms belongs only to one individual person and can only be used by that person and no one else. In order for a person to be able to use a Coat of Arms it is necessary for that individual person to apply for a personal Coat of Arms to be granted to him or her. This is done by making application to "The Court of the Lord Lyon"

The office of Lyon King of Arms dates from the 14th century. The Lord Lyon is the sole King of Arms in Scotland. He is Head of the Heraldic Executive and the Judge of the Court of the Lord Lyon which has jurisdiction over all heraldic business in Scotland. In 1672 a further Act of the Scottish Parliament authorised the creation of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. This Register is maintained by the Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records and contains an official copy of every Coat of Arms granted in Scotland since 1672.