## Diocese of Motherwell—Coat of Arms

The *blue background* represents the colour associated with Our Blessed Lady. The Mother of our Faith.

The Cross of Our Lord.

The *fleur-de-lys* are representative of the lily; the flower of Our Blessed Lady.

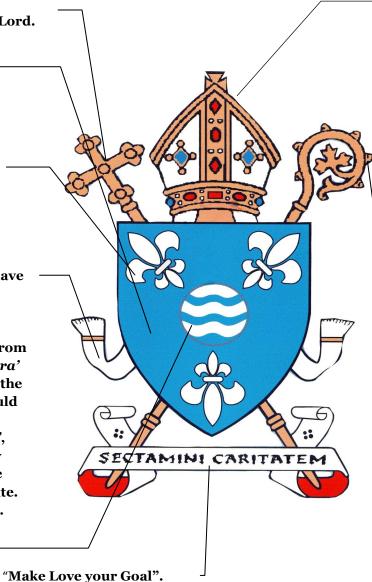
The *Fleur-de-Lis* in Catholic Heraldry is a sign of Mary.

The Mitres worn by Bishops and Abbots have *'lappets'* attached to them, in the same manner as the papal tiara.

The lappets are probably a vestige of the ancient Greek headband called a '*mitra*' from which the mitre itself descends. The '*mitra*' was a band of cloth tied around the head, the ends of the remaining fabric of which would fall down the back of the neck. The Latin name for the lappets is '*infulae*', which were originally headbands worn by

dignitaries, priests, and others among the ancient Romans. They were generally white. Mitre lappets are often lined with red silk.

> The water represents the "well' of Motherwell. This is because when it was a small hamlet many years ago it did indeed have a 'well' for that community.



St. Paul, 1 Corinthians 14:1

The words said as the Mitre is given to the Bishop are —"Receive the mitre, and may the splendour of holiness shine forth in you, so that when the chief shepherd appears you may deserve to receive from him an unfading crown of glory."

The *Mitre* is a "headdress." The word mitre derives from the Greek *'mitra'*, which signifies a headband or diadem. In the Old Testament, the High Priest and other priests wore a distinctive garb which included a mitre.

The words said as the 'Crozier' is given to the Bishop are — "Take this staff as a sign of your pastoral office: keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd the Church of God."

The *Crozier*, or officially the pastoral staff ('baculus pastoralis'), symbolizes the role of bishop as the Good Shepherd. In the Gospel of St. John (10:1-21), our Lord identified Himself as the Good Shepherd. The word translated as "good" in the original Greek text is 'kalos', which also means "model." Our Lord is the model shepherd for the apostles and their successors, the bishops, who are appointed as shepherds.

The bishop, like a good shepherd, must lead his faithful flock along the path of salvation, disciplining and protecting them as needed. The shepherd's staff is therefore a most appropriate symbol for the office of bishop.

## 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.