

How the mission of Jesus continues today:

We have been finding out about the mission of Jesus and how he called others, like the Apostles, to follow him. We know that the mission of Jesus continues today.

Pope Francis guides the Universal Church, but closer to home, Bishops and Archbishops look after their Dioceses or Archdioceses and priests look after their parishes.



The bishop's / archbishop's church in a diocese / archdiocese is called a Cathedral. This is where the bishop / archbishop, as leader of the Christian community in the diocese, has his seat and celebrates Mass. The name Cathedral comes from the Greek word '*Cathedra*' meaning chair or seat. This is a symbol of his responsibility and authority, and he takes his seat when he celebrates Mass. The Bishops are successors to the Apostles who helped Jesus with his mission. The role of the Bishop is to unite all the parish families. They visit parishes, ordain men as deacons or priests, and celebrate confirmations. They care for people like shepherds who look after their sheep.

Look at the map of all the dioceses and archdioceses of England and Wales. Talk about them. Can you find the Archdiocese of Liverpool? Can you think of a reason why Liverpool is one of the smallest, but is an archdiocese, not a diocese?

Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom look after our Archdiocese of Liverpool following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd. They wear symbols to show they follow the example of Jesus.



1. A cross to show they walk in the footsteps of Christ
2. A mitre to symbolise the 2 sources of authority – the Bible and the Church
3. The crozier – to show they are like a shepherd
4. The ring to show they are faithful to God and to leading their people.

Talk about and try to answer these questions:

- How does the bishop guide the people of his diocese?
- Why does the bishop wear a mitre?
- What is a crozier like and why is that symbol used?
- How is the bishop like a shepherd?



Activity:

Imagine you are a new bishop. Try to make links to scripture and other sources as you write a letter to the parishes to tell them about your mission in the diocese. Say how the activities you are involved in help to support and shape the life of people in the Archdiocese. Show how parishes can help because of what they believe and what their responsibilities are as church communities. You could look at the archdiocesan website to help you: <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Home-Page>