

'Keep watch over the whole flock'

Bishops have 3 insignia of their office: the episcopal ring, crozier and mitre. Other signs of the bishop's office are the zucchetto and the pectoral cross.

MITER

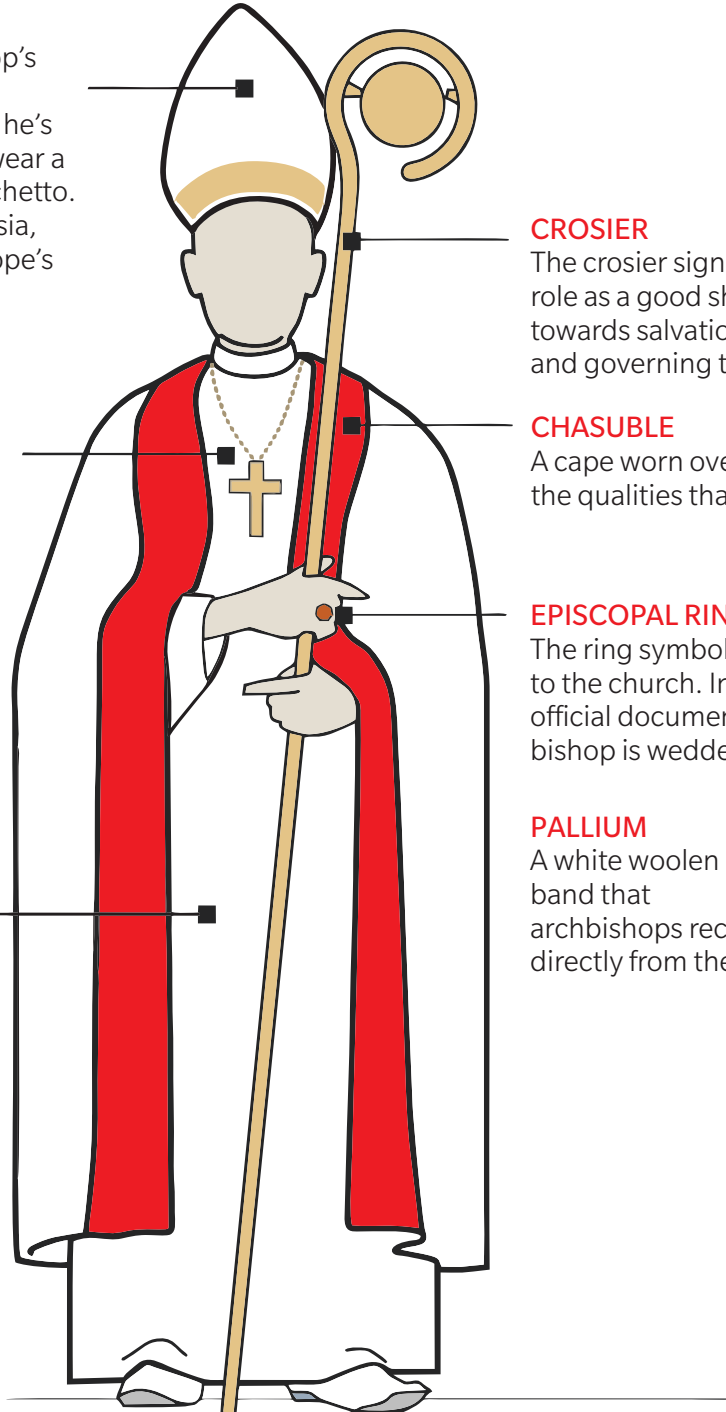
The mitre signifies the bishop's resolve to pursue holiness. The bishop takes it off when he's praying. Underneath, he'll wear a silken skull cap called a zucchetto. A bishop's zucchetto is fuchsia, a cardinal's is red and the pope's is white.

PECTORAL CROSS

The pectoral cross is worn over the mozzetta when the bishop is in choir dress. It is worn around the neck and resting close to the heart. When the bishop is in a suit, the cross is usually placed in the jacket pocket with the chain showing.

ALB

A white garment symbolizing the sanctifying grace of baptism and purity of heart. It resembles the robe Jesus was ordered to wear by King Herod. This basic liturgical garb is worn by everyone from altar boys and girls to bishops. Traditionally, albs are made of plain linen.



CROSIER

The crozier signifies the bishop's or archbishop's role as a good shepherd who leads his flock towards salvation and his duty of guiding and governing the church entrusted to him.

CHASUBLE

A cape worn over the other vestments, symbolizing the qualities that Jesus embodied.

EPISCOPAL RING

The ring symbolizes the bishop's fidelity to the church. In the old days, a ring was used to seal official documents. Like a wedding ring, it suggests a bishop is wedded to his diocese.

PALLIUM

A white woolen band that archbishops receive directly from the pope.

