

# THE DIOCESE



*Above: Edwin Regan, Bishop Emeritus, with a Carmelite Sister on the occasion of her Solemn Profession at the Carmelite Monastery in Dolgeliau, Wales*

## Find Out

What is the name of your Bishop?  
What is the name of your diocese?  
Where is the cathedral of your diocese?  
How many bishops are there in England and Wales?

## THE BISHOP

A Diocese is made up of many parishes.

The Bishop leads the Christian family in his Diocese.

The main church in a diocese is called a Cathedral. 'Cathedral' comes from a Latin word meaning 'seat', so the cathedral is where the diocesan bishop has his 'seat'. This is the symbol of his responsibility and authority, and he takes his seat here when he celebrates Mass. Bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

The role of the Bishop is to unite all the parish families within a diocese. He does this through visiting each parish, celebrating confirmation, ordaining men to the priesthood and diaconate and proclaiming the Gospel. He is like a shepherd in the way he looks after and cares for his people as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

The mitre is worn on his head and symbolises the two sources of his authority – the Bible and the Church.

The cross shows he walks in the footsteps of Christ.

The ring shows he is faithful to God and to leading his people.

The crozier is a symbol of how he is like a shepherd.