

Blazon or Heraldic Description of Coat of Arms

Bleu celeste, an open crown, the points terminating in crosses bottony Or, enfiling a single stem slipped and leaved Vert on which are four lilies of the valley Proper, three above and one below the crown, and a single maple leaf Gules to sinister chief. The shield is ensigned by a bishop's mitre.

On the lappets (white with gold lining) are red crosses with maple leaf terminations. The crosses have a double transverse, indicating the metropolitan cross of an Archdiocese.

The light blue field honours the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Archdiocese. Ultramarine, the blue pigment used by mediaeval artists for the Virgin's dress was fabulously expensive because it was derived from Lapis lazuli mined in Afghanistan; the use of such an expensive material demonstrated great devotion to her.

The lily of the valley is associated with purity and innocence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, particularly her Immaculate Conception (cf. Songs 2:1-2. 4:7). Its inclusion in the arms of the Archdiocese reflects the dedication of the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.



The mitre used is one that was created especially for Canadian Catholic dioceses. On the gold orphreys are to be found three blue crosses with lily-like terminations; the number three indicates the Holy Trinity and the lily is a symbol of St. Joseph, pastor of the Church in Canada.

Since the nineteenth century the maple leaf has been a popular symbol of Canada, with the red maple leaf dominating since the proclamation of the current Canadian flag in 1965.

The crown symbolizes both the Kingship of Christ and the see city of the Archdiocese. In 1673 a French trading post and fort had been established at the mouth of the Cataraqui River. With the settlement of the area by displaced Loyalists in the 1780's, it was renamed Kingston in honour of George III. Of strategic, economic and military importance in British North America, Lord Sydenham, the Governor General, chose it to be the first capital city and seat of the Parliament of the United Province of Canada from 1841 to 1844.