The Bishop is Coming

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Texas
The Bishop

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle is the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Texas. He and his wife JoAnne have two daughters, Caisa and Zoë. They live in Houston and Bishop Doyle has his office at the Diocesan Center.

Our two Bishops Suffragan, Rayford High and Dena Harrison live in Tyler and Austin, respectively.

Bishop Doyle travels around the diocese baptizing and confirming people and teaching. When Bishop Doyle visits a church he also visits with church leaders. He presides at diocesan meetings and takes part in the sessions of the House of Bishops of the church’s General Convention.

There are 153 churches in our diocese so it will take Bishop Doyle three years to visit all the churches. What will you do to get ready for his visit?

What questions would you like to ask him?

The Bishop’s Family

Bishop Doyle is married to JoAnne. JoAnne loves to garden, be outside and read. She gives time to an outreach ministry of St. George’s and St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church called the Trash and Treasure. It is a resale shop for those in need in south Houston. She also gives time to St. Stephen’s Episcopal School by helping with their garden and annual fundraising efforts.

Caisa is 12, enjoys reading, playing outside, gymnastics, and hanging out with friends. Zoë is 7 and likes to play dress up and pretend. They both like the movie “Hairspray,” “High School Musical” and “Camp Rock.” They enjoy listening to Hannah Montana and movie soundtracks.
Symbols of the Bishop

The Crozier

The crozier is a staff carried by a bishop. It is in the shape of a shepherd’s crook, and reminds us of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The crook and staff of the crozier is heavily decorated. The Diocese of Texas’ crozier has been handed down to each bishop of Texas since 1891. That crozier has been carried by all 9 bishops of the Diocese of Texas. The word “bishop” means shepherd.

The Bishop’s Ring

The Bishop wears a special ring that has the Diocese of Texas shield on it. Only the diocesan bishop wears such a ring. It is used to make a wax seal on ordination documents and other documents to certify the bishop’s approval. In past times, this wax seal proved the bishop had sent the letter. At the bishop’s death, the ring was smashed to bits so no one could communicate in the bishop’s name.

The Bishop’s Cross

A pectoral cross is a large cross that bishops wear around their necks. It has been used by bishops for the last 500 years. Bishop Doyle’s cross is a teaching cross. He designed it and used symbols like the grapevine and flowers that remind us of Jesus’ resurrection. The flowers also remind the new bishop that his wife and daughters like to garden. The Good Shepherd is in the center of the cross and shows how the bishop is a shepherd to his flock.
The Bishop’s Vestments

The bishop wears a purple cassock that belts at the waist. Over this he or she wears a white rochet with billowy sleeves gathered and enclosed with wrist bands.

Over this a bishop wears a red chimere or long vest open in the front. If the bishop is celebrating a Eucharist he or she will wear a stole appropriate to the season of the church year around the neck. If not, a black scarf is worn.

The Bishop’s Mitre

The bishop sometimes wears a mitre, a pointed hat that symbolizes the point of flame that the disciples received at the first Pentecost. We remember that the bishop is a successor to these apostles.

You can dress Bishop Doyle in his vestments. Please see page 10 of this booklet. You will need scissors for this activity and perhaps some help in cutting.
The Episcopal Shield

Samuel Seabury was the very first bishop in the United States. Bishops in England were forbidden by law to consecrate anyone who would not take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Seabury turned to the Episcopal Church of Scotland which had no connection with the government. The Scottish bishops were free to consecrate him without political complications. In honor of this deed, the Episcopal Church shield has a cross of St. Andrew in the upper left corner because St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. Do you see this shield somewhere in your church?

A letter from Bishop Doyle

Welcome to a festival day! I am so very excited to be with you and your family for this special day. We work together. In our church we need bishops, priests, deacons, and you and your family. It takes all of us to do God’s work in the world.

I am excited about being a bishop. I am more excited about being your bishop. I am looking forward to knowing you in the years to come. I am looking forward to seeing you grow up. And, along with your family and friends, I am looking forward to seeing you join us in ministry. Together we can work to change the world. Together we can make the world a better place to live.

Our work is to love one another. We are to care for people and help them to live the lives God intends. You and I can do that work.

With the help of some friends, I have put together this special booklet for you. My hope is that you can get to know me a little better and learn about our ministry together.

We are working for God, join with me and let’s celebrate.

Thank you for being here today. You are part of what makes this a special day. You are part of what makes this a special church.

Faithfully yours,

C. Andrew Doyle
The Diocesan Seal

Each diocese has a unique shield. The shield has symbols on it which remind us of who we are. Look closely at the shield.

Around the outside of the shield is our name and two important dates in our diocese. Inside this border there is a cross with a star on it. The star represents the Lone Star of Texas. The bishop’s mitre, above the cross and star, reminds us that we are Episcopalians, taken from the word “episcopate” or bishop. The dates on the shield remind us that the first worship service held in the diocese was on Christmas Day 1838 in Matagorda. The diocese was formally organized in 1849.

The longhorn steer at the bottom of the shield helps us remember that as the church, which would later become Christ Church Cathedral on Texas Avenue and Fannin Street in Houston, was being built, a cattleman was herding cattle through town. He asked what the people were doing and they told him they were building a church. He roped a steer and gave it to the people building the church. “Here is your first contribution toward your church,” he said. So we remember part of our story, our history, through the symbols on the diocesan shield.

Draw a picture of your favorite thing about Bishop Doyle’s visit today.
The Diocese of Texas is one of the largest dioceses in the country. Our diocese is divided into 10 convocations (like a state is divided into counties). There are 153 congregations in our diocese.

Our diocese began as a foreign mission in 1838. Texas became a state of the Union in 1845 and in 1849 the diocese was organized, covering the whole state of Texas. Today there are six dioceses in Texas. The Diocese of Texas, Diocese of West Texas, Diocese of Dallas, Diocese of Northwest Texas, Diocese of Ft. Worth and the Diocese of the Rio Grande which also includes the state of New Mexico.

Where do some of your friends live?

Can you find your church on the map of the diocese?

Can you find Camp Allen?

Where does Bishop Doyle live?
Help the Bishop
Find Your church
A Bishop Word Search

Can you find these words? Circle each word.

Bishop   Diocese
Cross     Steer
Ring      Festival
Star      Consecration
Confirm   Baptize
Episcopal Stole
Mitre     Chasuble
Priest    Crozier
Texas

Would you like to color the bishop?
Bishop Andy Paperdoll

Color the bishop’s vestments and cut them out. Now you can dress Bishop Andy in his vestments!