

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



Mitre

(Fr. the Gk. for “turban”). Part of the insignia of bishops and also worn by certain abbots. The name may derive from the *mitznefet* turban worn by the Jewish High Priest. The three types of mitres are *aurifrigiata* (cloth of gold worn during penitential seasons), *simplex* (plain white silk worn for funerals, Good Friday and certain other occasions), and *pretiosa* (a jeweled mitre worn for Feasts and Sundays.) The bishop removes his miter during the canon of the Mass.

Left: “The Limerick Mitre” of Cornelius O’Dea Bishop, of Limerick 1400-1426 is in the medieval collection of the Hunt Museum, Limerick, Ireland. The mitre is covered with jewels.