



## *LEGATO CON AMORE*

Bishop McKenna's motto comes from the final canto of the great mediaeval poem *La Commedia* (the Divine Comedy) by Dante Alighieri 1265-1321. The poet imagined a tour of hell, purgatory and heaven. His ultimate vision of the heavenly light is a vision of love. It is the love of God, bringing order out of chaos.

*Nel suo profondo vidi che s'interna  
legato con amore in un volume  
ciò che per l'universo si squaderna*

(In its depths I saw gathered  
bound with love in one book  
the scattered pages of the universe)

It echoes a beautiful image of the Church from St Augustine of Hippo (354-430).

*"(Christians) do not make a house of God unless they are cemented together by love. If those beams of wood and those stones of the church were not joined to one another in a definite pattern, if they were not peacefully intertwined, if they did not by mutual attachment in a certain sense 'love' one another, no-one would dare to put a foot inside... Our Lord Jesus Christ, wishing to enter and dwell in us, used to say as though by way of a building, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another".*

The design of the coat of arms returns to an earlier tradition, where the Cross is not behind, but in front of the shield. The motto is stretched across like Christ's arms in his reconciling sacrifice of love.

The star at the foot of the cross represents Mary, who stands there as the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Church.

The golden field of the shield represents the Diocese of Bathurst.