

The Chasuble



Since ancient times, whenever a priest celebrated the sacrifice of the Mass he would put on a large poncho-like garment called a *casula* (chasuble) that covered his ordinary clothing. This vestment developed from the ordinary Roman attire of a farmer, who wore the large poncho to protect him from the elements. It eventually became associated with Christians in the 3rd century.

As the fashion trends shifted the chasuble ceased to be an ordinary garment but was still used by priests. By the 8th century the chasuble was reserved for clergy members and began to be decorated in a way that reflected its sacred function.

The colour of this vestment is coordinated with the symbolic colour of the liturgical season or feast and can be seen as the 'yoke of Christ' or the seamless garment worn by Christ.

White: Light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, glory

Season of Christmas, Season of Easter, Feasts of the Lord, other than of His passion, Feasts of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs,, All Saints (1 November), Feasts of the Apostles, Nuptial Masses
Masses for the dead (Requiem Masses)

Red: The Passion, blood, fire, God's Love, martyrdom

Feasts of the Lord's passion, Blood, and Cross, Feasts of the martyrs, Palm Sunday, Pentecost

Green: The Holy Ghost, life eternal, hope

Time After Epiphany, Time After Pentecost

Violet: Penance, humility, melancholy

Season of Advent, Season of Septuagesima, Season of Lent, Vigils except for Ascension and Pentecost, Good Friday

Rose :Joy

Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Black: Sorrow

These days this colour is rarely worn.

Gold: Joy

Gold can replace white, red, or green (but not violet or black)