

Do You Know? #6

THE TRADITIONAL COLOURS OF VESTMENTS EXPLAINED

THERE ARE FIVE LITURGICAL COLORS:

WHITE, GREEN, RED, PURPLE, AND BLACK.

WHITE: is the symbol of purity. It is used on all feasts of Our Lord except those relating to His sufferings; on feasts of Our Lady; and on the feasts of saints that are not martyrs.

RED: is the figure of blood and fire. The Church assigns it to the feasts of the martyrs and apostles; to Pentecost Sunday; and to feasts connected with the Passion of Our Lord.

GREEN: is the symbol of hope. It is used on the Sundays from Epiphany to Septuagesima and on the Sundays after Pentecost. (The Sacred Congregation of Rites permits the use of **Gold** vestments instead of red, white or green, provided the material to be a pure cloth of gold).

VIOLET: the penitential colour, is used during Advent and Lent and on the Vigils of the greater feasts. (Vestments of **Rose colour** may be worn in place of violet on two days during the year: the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday; and the fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday).

BLACK: the sign of mourning is used on Good Friday, and in Masses of the Dead.

PJC