

# Clergy Shirt and Clerical Collar



In days past, Protestant preachers and Lawyers in Europe wore black and chose a white sweatband (cravat) to wear around their necks for the purpose of riding on horseback. This became personified in the UK by John Wesley, founder of the Methodists, who rode on horseback the length and breadth of England preaching the Bible. It was also the normal mode of dress for the Protestant Churches of Europe and it was not until the turn of the eighteenth century that the Catholic Church adopted it also.

It was never a Roman Catholic style of clergy dress code before that time and not one picture of a Pope or member of the clergy can be seen wearing one.

A clergy shirt is a clerical, not a vestment and there are two types: neckband shirts and tab-collar shirts. The shirt can be any colour, but generally the public often does not perceive it as a clergy shirt unless it is black or maybe grey.

This shirt is appropriate for leading informal worship and for public ministry where the wearing of vestments would be impractical, such as visiting the sick. The advantage of wearing a clergy shirt to visit people in the hospital is that everyone knows what you are and why you are there.