

The Priest's New Clothes

In a faraway land, a king lived in his castle. Right next door, there was a church.

The king's name was King Don John Leon Ron, but everyone just called him "King Rhyme" for short.

King Rhyme wore a crown with many jewels. He wore long, fancy robes. He also talked in rhyme.

The priest's name was Father Paul. When Father Paul walked around the kingdom, he wore a black shirt with a small, white collar and black pants.

Father Paul liked to visit people in the kingdom. He sometimes visited the school, where he told stories about Jesus.

Father Paul visited people who were sick. Sometimes he went to their houses, and sometimes he visited them in the hospital.

At church, Father Paul wore special clothes for Mass. Those clothes are called *vestments*.

One vestment is a long robe with no sleeves. It looks almost like a big poncho. It's called a *chasuble*.

Father Paul had four robes, or chasubles. One was white. One was red. One was green, and one was purple.

One day before Mass, King Rhyme said,
"Today I think you should be seen
wearing my favorite color, green."

Father Paul said, "No, I will wear white because it is the Easter season. White reminds us of Jesus, Mary, the angels, and saints in heaven."

King Rhyme said,
“In your closet, you have four colors.
In my royal closet are many others.”

“That’s because you are a king,” said Father Paul. “I am a priest. The colors I wear at Mass remind people of special things.

Father Paul said, “Red vestments remind us of fire and blood. I will wear red at Mass on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit looked like fire over the heads of the Apostles.”

“When it’s purple you wear,
does it make people stare?” asked King Rhyme.

“During Lent and Advent, the dark color purple reminds people that Jesus came to save us. Even though we sometimes do naughty things that make us feel like hiding in the dark, Jesus loves us,” said Father Paul.

“What does it mean
when your clothes are green?” asked King Rhyme.

Father Paul said, “Green makes us think of plants that grow. People grow, too. Green means that God has a special plan for us as we grow up.”

“Well,” said King Rhyme, “I hear the church bell.
And as everyone knows,
you will wear special clothes.”

“That’s right,” said Father Paul. “Today I’ll wear white.”

King Rhyme laughed because Father Paul talked in rhyme.