

Conferring of Pallium on Archbishop Raphy Manjaly (12.09.2021)

On Sunday, the 12th September, the Apostolic Nuncio to India Archbishop the Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli will vest the Archbishop of Agra, the Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly with the “pallium” during the Holy Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Agra.



The **pallium** (derived from the Roman *pallium* or *palla*, a woolen cloak) is an ecclesiastical vestment in the Roman Catholic Church, originally peculiar to the pope, but for many centuries bestowed by the Holy See upon metropolitans and primates as a symbol of their conferred jurisdictional authorities, and still remains a papal emblem. In its present form, the pallium is a long and "three fingers broad" (narrow) white band adornment, woven from the wool of lambs raised by Trappist monks. It is donned by looping its middle around one's neck, resting upon the chasuble and two dependent lappets over one's shoulders with tail-ends (doubled) on the left with the front end crossing over the rear.

It is unknown exactly when the pallium was first introduced. Although Tertullian wrote an essay no later than 220 AD titled *De Pallio* ("On the Pallium"), according to the *Liber Pontificalis*, it was first used when Pope Marcus (died 336) conferred the right to wear the pallium on the Bishop of Ostia, because the consecration of the pope appertained to him; Pope Symmachus did the same for St. Cæsarius of Arles in 513, and in numerous other references of the sixth century, the pallium is mentioned as a long-customary vestment.

The use of the pallium is reserved to the pope and archbishops who are metropolitans, but the latter may not use it until it is conferred upon them by the pope. Since the Second Vatican Council (1962–65), the liturgy for the conferral of the pallium as it appears in the liturgical books is to take place at the beginning of the Mass in which the archbishop takes possession of his see; however, the practice of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI has actually been to summon all new metropolitans to Rome to receive the pallium directly from the hands of the pope on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.



In January 2015, Pope Francis announced that, from that year's imposition on, the pallium would no longer be awarded personally by the Pope in Rome, instead, the pallia will be blessed by the Pope on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul in Saint Peter's Basilica; the metropolitan archbishops, however will receive those pallia in a separate ceremony within their home dioceses from the hands of the Apostolic Nuncio (who is the personal representative of the pope in their respective countries). A metropolitan archbishop may wear his pallium as a mark of his jurisdiction not

only in his own archdiocese but anywhere in his ecclesiastical province whenever he celebrates Mass.

Worn by the pope, the pallium symbolizes the *plenitudo pontificalis officii* (i.e., the "plenitude of pontifical office"); worn by archbishops, it typifies their participation in the supreme pastoral power of the pope, who concedes it to them for their proper church provinces. Similarly, after his resignation, he may not use the pallium; should he be transferred to another archdiocese, he must again petition the pope for a new pallium. The new pallia are solemnly blessed after the First Vespers on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, and are then kept in a special silver-gilt casket near the *Confessio Petri* (tomb of St. Peter) until required.