

CLERICAL
ROBES OF DISTINCTION

birch's
Sewn in Distinction
SINCE 1860

MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA



The Birch's name is sewn into the history of South Africa's most distinguished fraternities, bolstered by our strong heritage of 150 years. Having originally started as importers of gowns, the Birch's Robe Factory opened its doors in 1940 as specialist robe makers, designing and manufacturing robes for African churches.

At the Birch's Robe Factory, each Vestment is cut and stitched with utmost admiration for the wearer, bearing the promise that it is Sewn in Distinction. This represents our promise to our customers; it is our mantra of assurance in quality craftsmanship and attentive service. With this we would like to extend our ecclesiastical services to you, which includes the option to customise your robe to meet your exact technical and aesthetic requirements.

With Birch's, you are assured of meticulous attention to detail, skilful fabric handling and prompt delivery, without compromising on the quality that we are known for.

Yours in Distinction.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Chris Mowbray' and the second is 'Nick Mowbray'. They are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris & Nick Mowbray
Directors



CLERICAL ROBES

SPECIALISED CRAFTSMANSHIP

As widely recognised and specialised suppliers of Vestments for churches and religious educational institutions throughout Southern Africa, Birch's has an extensive ecclesiastical division offering you a wealth of knowledge and unique experience, passed down from one generation to the next.



OUR HERITAGE

SEWN IN DISTINCTION

Renowned for our attention to detail, the Birch's family-owned and run business has created beautiful religious Vestments for many great African clergies over the past eight decades. Generations of dedicated craftsmen and women have helped Birch's earn the reputation in the clerical fraternity, one that is synonymous with quality and distinction.

THE FACTORY

GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

It is from the factory in Grahamstown, one of South Africa's oldest and most loved frontier cities, that generations of skilled craftsmen and women design and meticulously work fabric into Vestments that are internationally revered. This knowledge and craft, passed down from generation to generation, forms the backbone of our 2900sqm factory.

From sampling to final delivery, Birch's allows you complete confidence in all ecclesiastical requirements from Albs to Cassocks, Chasubles and Surplices to decorative Bishop Vestments.

The factory carries an assortment of the finest fabrics that have been globally and locally sourced, as well as ribbons and braids, linings, and trimmings specially suited to crafting beautiful religious Vestments. Consistency of colour accuracy is guaranteed, as is the ability to repeat fabrics and colours in years to come.







CLERICAL ROBES

AND ACCESSORIES

Allow us to introduce our collection of ecclesiastical attire. From Albs and Cassocks, to Chasubles, Clerical Surplices and decorative Bishop's Vestments, our products are fully guaranteed and customers may place orders with the confidence that meticulous care will be taken to produce the finest handmade garments.

PULPIT ROBES

Available in Black or Colour Textured Polyester, Polyester Cashmere or lightweight Wool and Trevira.



STYLE G1
OPEN GENEVA ROBE
Plain fronts with bell-shaped sleeves.



STYLE G2
SCOTTISH STYLE ROBE
Open front, designed with wing sleeves, giving complete freedom to arms.



STYLE G3
CLOSED FRONT ROBE
V-neck, full bell-shaped sleeves with inner cuffed sleeves. Concealed fly front with buttons and buttonholes. Zip option also available.



STYLE G4
CLOSED FRONT ROBE
Similar style to G3, but with Cassock style round collar, worn with a Minister's Band.



STYLE G5
DETACHABLE CASSOCK-FRONT ROBE
Hand-tailored robe with full bell sleeves and cuffed sleeves. Detachable Cassock-front, tucked at waistline.



STYLE G6
OPEN GENEVA ROBE
Pleated fronts, with fully lined bell-shaped sleeves, usually worn with Clerical Vest and Clerical Collar, with or without suit jacket.

Also Available:

STYLE G2A - SCOTTISH STYLE PULPIT ROBE
Similar to Style G2, but includes an inner sleeve so that jacket can be removed.

BAPTISMAL AND CHOIR ROBES

Available in Textured Polyester, Polyester Cashmere or lightweight Wool and Trevira.



STYLE G7
BAPTISMAL ROBES
Our Baptismal Robes are tailored to be worn with a Clerical Collar and can be tailored to be worn with a shirt and tie.



STYLE G9
CHOIR ROBES WITH CHOIR JABOT AND COLLAR
Bell-shaped sleeves with pleating on the shoulders. This classic gown can be worn by men, women and children.



MTIKA
FROCK COAT
Double-breasted coat, slit open at back, in barathea material.

TOGAS

Togas available in Textured Polyester, Polyester Cashmere or lightweight Wool and Trevira.



N.G. KERK TOGA

Lined sleeves with fancy braid round velvet yoke with either factory or crocheted tassels on velvet squares.

ALB, CASSOCK ALB AND CHALB



CASSOCK ALB WITH COWL

Also available without Cowl.



CHALB

Worn with Clerical Shirt and slip in collar.
Available in Polyester Cashmere.



ALB

High neckline with zip, tailor made in texturised polyester or polyester cashmere. Worn with a black or white girdle. Traditional style is also available in Poly Cotton, with a round, gathered yoke that can be worn with an amice.

CLERICAL CLOAKS, LATIN CASSOCKS, CAPES FOR CLERGY, VERGER'S GOWNS AND GOWNS FOR THE WIVES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS



CLERICAL CLOAKS

Well-tailored on our best quality Melton cloth, with deep collar. Chain and lion head clasp fastening at breast. Cloak usually worn 10cm from ground. Cloaks available with or without shoulder cape. Hood extra.



LATIN CASSOCK

Finished with cord and 39 covered buttons, supplied with or without shoulder cape and over sleeves.

Fabrics Available:

CHORISTER'S CASSOCKS
Textured Polyester,
Polyester Cashmere,
Lightweight Wool and Trevira.

Also Available:

VERGER'S GOWNS
Styles available on application.

CAPES FOR CLERGY
Available in Textured Polyester, Polyester Cashmere or lightweight Wool and Trevira.

BAPTIST MINISTER'S WIFE'S GOWN
Black robe with round collar flowing into the facings.

The Range of Togas Comprise:

HOLLANDSE TOGAS

Trimmed with Velvet and edged with braid round the yoke and down facing.

HERVORMENDE KERK

Wing sleeve Togas. No tassels. Velvet on front, yoke and round the sleeves. With or without fancy braid. Diploma sleeves are available by request in place of wing sleeves.

WING SLEEVE TOGAS

No tassels. Velvet only on yoke, or velvet on yoke and down front. Diploma sleeves by request in place of wing sleeves.

N.G. KERK TOGAS

Fancy braided round velvet yoke with either factory or crocheted tassels on velvet squares.

COTTA



COTTA

*Worn by servers and clergy. Square necked with gathering into the yoke.
Available in Poly Cotton.*

ROCHET, PICTURED WITH CHIMERE AND SCARF



ROCHET

Included with loose sleeve frills as well as red and black wristbands. These can also be bought separately per set. Available in Poly Cotton.

CHIMERE

A sleeveless gown available in either red or black. Available in Textured Polyester or Polyester Cashmere.

SCARF

Available in width of 15, 18 or 23 centimetres. Available in Textured Polyester or Polyester Cashmere.

SURPLICE



Worn by Choristers with Chorister's Cassock and by Clergy. Round necked with gathering into the yoke and available in calf length or shorter for adults. Available in Poly Cotton.

CASSOCKS, SCAPULARS AND HEADWEAR

Available in Textured Polyester, Polyester Cashmere or lightweight Wool and Trevira.



SINGLE-BREASTED CASSOCK

Worn with Cincture and we recommend the Stole as well.



BIRETTA



CANTERBURY CAP



SKULL CAP

Also Available:

CASSOCKS:

- Magenta polyester cashmere, worn exclusively by Bishops, either single or double-breasted.
- Double-breasted Cassock, tailored to individual's measurements and requirements in either T/P or P/C.

SCAPULAR

Loose fitting garment which fastens at sides of waist with ribbon. Made of Polyester Cashmere fabric.

VESTMENTS AND COPES

Hand-crafted to the highest standards, our religious Vestments are made using only the finest of fabrics including imported 100% Cotton and Silk, with fine quality trimmings adding to the finished effect.



CHASUBLES

Trimmed with Orphrey braid and lined with satin. The stole is worn with a chasuble. The chasuble is available separately from vestment set. Available in Polyester Cashmere and Brocade.



GOTHIC VESTMENT SET

Chasuble, Stole, Burse, Manipule and Veil.



COPES

Trimmed with 75mm Orphrey braid. Lined or unlined. Available in Brocade and Polyester Cashmere.



MITRES

Traditionally in matching fabric to the cope with gold fringe and trimmed with or without Orphrey braid.

TWO POINTED AND THREE POINTED STOLES

Choose from an array of Polyester Cashmere fabrics and Brocades, trimmed with Ophrey braid, gold fringing and embroidery motifs.
Reversible stoles are possible, with different colours and designs on either side.



Also Available:

FUNERAL PALLS
Funeral pallis may be lined or unlined, usually with fringing all around the hem. Made up in Polyester Cashmere or Brocade.

PULPIT FALLS
In selected Brocades and Velvets made to individual order and embroidered to customer's choice of text and design.

SMALL LINENS
Corporals, Lavabo Towles, Palls, Purificators, Amices and Maniples.

CLERICAL SHIRTS AND CLERICAL VESTOCKS

Available in a rich blend of Cotton and Polyester, our Clerical Shirts offer the option of round collars or slip-in-collars, as well as short or long sleeves, while the Vestocks are available in square or pointed fronts.



STYLE E6
CLERICAL VESTOCK
Square front worn with a round Clerical collar, double collar or slip in collar.

STYLE E12
CLERICAL SHIRT
Shirts with round collars Priest style. Available in long or short sleeve in white, black, grey, dark blue, and cream. Special sizes and colours available on request.

CLERICAL SHIRT
PADRE STYLE
Long or short sleeves, worn with slip in collar. Available in white, black, grey, dark blue, and cream. Special sizes and colours available on request.

Also Available:

STYLE E7
CLERICAL VESTOCK
Worn with a round Clerical collar, tapered towards neck.

STYLE E7A
CLERICAL VESTOCK
Worn with a round Clerical collar, fuller style with straight shoulders.

STYLE E10
CLERICAL STOCK
Stocks are offered with square or round fronts.

STYLE E11
CLERICAL STOCK
Stocks with open notch may be used with or without linen tabs.

ROUND CLERICAL COLLARS
Recommended the next size above shirt size.

SLIP IN COLLARS
25cm long or 17cm short.

STUDS
Pear shape (front), small round (back) or butterfly (front and back).

Special sizes and colours such as Magenta also available.

IMPORTANT

STATE YOUR HEIGHT AND COLLAR SIZE

Measurements required for Vestocks • All round chest and waist measurement • Length from collar stud to 7.5cm below trouser waist



OUR ROBES

WHAT THEY ARE MADE OF

Hand-crafted to the highest standards, our religious Vestments are made using only the finest of fabrics including imported 100% Cotton and Silk, finished with Orphrey braid, trim and detailing which hangs superbly and will surpass any expectations.

- » *Made to measure (Bespoke)*
- » *Dry-cleanable*
- » *Locally and globally sourced fabrics*
- » *Designed, woven and made in South Africa*







WHY INVEST IN A BIRCH’S ROBE?

- » Hand-crafted quality of distinction
- » Superior customisation alternatives
- » Proudly locally manufactured by skilled craftsmen and women
- » Consistent, high-quality solutions via a global and local sourcing system
- » Revered in many corners of the globe

THE BIRCH’S OFFERING

MUNICIPAL ATTIRE

- » The Mayor’s Robe
- » The Mayor’s Gloves
- » The Mayor’s Hat

CLERICAL ATTIRE

- » Pulpit Robes, Choir Gowns, Baptismal Gowns, Veststocks, Clerical Shirts and Vests, Verger’s Gowns, Surplices for the Clergy, Cassocks, Capes, Cloaks, Chorister’s Cassocks, Surplices, Albs, Clerical wear for Bishops, Gothic and Romanian Vestments, Copes and Stoles
- » Pulpit Falls are also available, as well as Coffin Palls
- » Mitres, Birettas and Scull Caps

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

- » Graduation, Academic, Diploma and Ceremonial
- » Academic Hoods, Diploma Collars, Stoles and Scarves
- » Mortarboards, Velvet Bonnets and Hardcrown Mortarboards

LEGAL ATTIRE

- » Magistrate’s Robes
- » Advocate’s / Barrister’s / Attorney’s Robes
- » Judge’s Robes

Please contact us for any of the above services.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

To make your purchasing experience more convenient, kindly note the following is available upon request:

- » On-site measurements for individuals or large groups. Self-measurement forms available on request
- » Custom Vestment or Robe design
- » Fabric swatches
- » Academic, Clerical, Legal and Municipal catalogues

POSTAGE / TRANSPORT COSTS

Transport costs are not included in listed prices and charges for packing, postage, freight and insurance will be an additional cost. Unless otherwise instructed, orders will be dispatched by the safest, quickest and most economical means.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Goods made to special order are not returnable. The illustrations in this brochure feature a small range of items in both traditional and modern style, which can be tailor-made in our factory to your specifications. Should you require something different to what we show in this catalogue, we offer a special design service at no extra cost. Simply let us know what you have in mind in terms of design or theme, the colour and type of fabric favoured and we will design to your specific requirements.

Should you wish to receive more specific information regarding any of our products, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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SINCE 1860

www.robcs.co.za / www.birchs.co.za T. 046 622 2509 14 Froude Street, Grahamstown, 6139, South Africa

SYMBOLS

Illustrated below is part only of our range which may be selected for the embellishment of Vestments. Depending on the symbol chosen, it is either worked in applique and couched down or embroidered directly onto the garment. Each motif has a liturgical significance. We are able to create original designs of your choice - just send us a photo or drawing.



A1



A2



A3



A4



A5



A6



A7



B1



B2



B3



B4



B5



B6



B7



C1



C2



C3



C4



C5



C6



C7



D1



D2



D3



D4



D5



D6



D7



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Colours in this catalogue are shown only as a rough guide.