

## Explanation of Medals

### St. Patrick's Medal

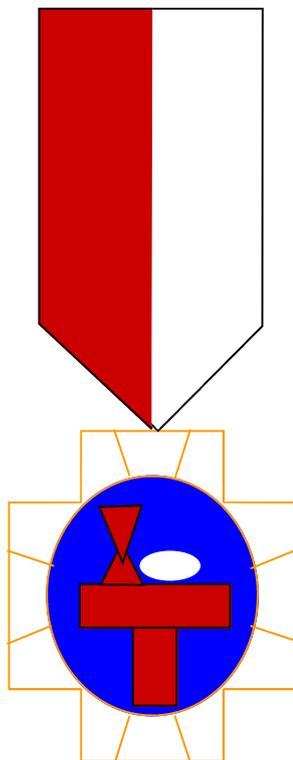
The **red** and **white** colours of the ribbon used for mounting this medal (St. Patrick's Medal) have their origins in an ancient order of chivalry called the Order of St Patrick established in 1873 following Britain's acknowledgement of the exclusive right of the Irish parliament to legislate for Ireland.

The white, in ancient heraldry represents peace and honesty; the red, strength and courage. In Christian symbolism red signifies action, charity, the Holy Spirit, spiritual awakening and the joy of life and love, while white signifies purity, innocence, and new life.

The cross symbolises our Christian call to service through the grace of the Sacrament of Baptism. It also represents the unity of heaven and earth through the celebration of the Eucharist. The theme of red and white is continued in the cross with the addition of blue, the colour of truth, hope and loyalty. Red and blue, in iconography symbolise the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ.

On the cross is depicted the altar with chalice and bread – the essential elements for the celebration of the Eucharist – the “*source and summit of Christian life*”. As Servers wear this medal it is a reminder of the call to “model their lives on the mystery of the Lord's cross”.

This medal will be awarded to servers in Ashbourne Donaghmore Parish who have completed at least two years service as Altar Servers.



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### St. Patrick's Medal

The **red** and **white** colours of the ribbon used for mounting this medal (St. Patrick's Medal) belong to the Order of St Patrick established in 1873.

The artist chooses particular colours because they are highly symbolic. The white colour represents purity, new life, peace and honesty; the red, strength, action, charity, the Holy Spirit, love and courage. The theme of red and white is continued in the cross with the addition of blue, the colour of truth, hope and loyalty.

The cross reminds us of our baptism. We are called to serve God and others especially through the celebration of the Eucharist. As Servers wear this medal we are reminded to "model our lives on the mystery of the Lord's cross".

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