

The National Shrine of St Oscar Romero

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK



Saint Oscar Romero, remembered at The National Shrine of St Oscar Romero, still challenges anyone who is brave enough to listen.

A PRAYER
RESOURCE



THE SOUTHWARK ROMERO CROSS

The Southwark Romero Cross was designed by Fernando Llort, friend of Saint Oscar Romero. It was installed in the Cathedral on 28 September 2013.

The cross is decorated in Llort's distinctive style which has

become symbolic of El Salvador. This Salvadoran interpretation of familiar Christian symbols reminds us that Christians are called to live and share the Gospel within their own culture, society and context.

The landscape in the background of the cross represents El Salvador's mountains and volcanoes. And, instead of the familiar motif of a blade of wheat often used in illustrations of the Eucharist, Llort has used a stalk of maize, the main crop in Romero's native land.

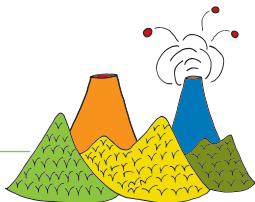
The cross has two faces, 'The Cross of Ministry' – with images of the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Last Supper – and 'The Cross of Resurrection'.

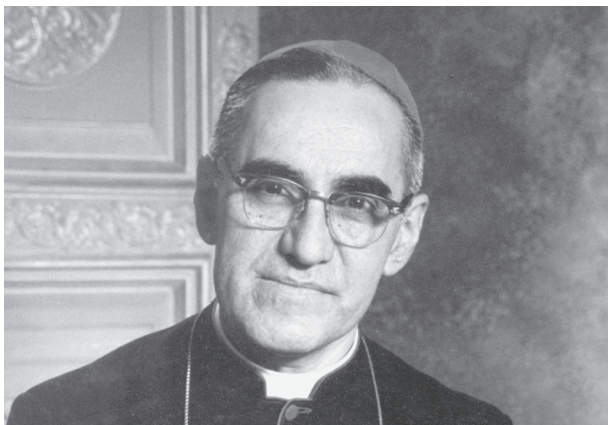
The Church is God's people. Saint Oscar Romero's motto was, "To feel ('be at one with') the Church". It is written in Spanish at the foot of the cross.

Pause to reflect

What images might feature on a cross reflecting my own culture, society and context?

What would my 'motto' be?





WHO WAS SAINT OSCAR ROMERO?

Saint Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador, from 1977 – 1980.

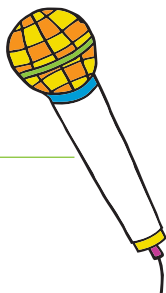
At the time, 'campesinos' (poor land workers) throughout El Salvador were being oppressed, driven from their land, tortured or killed by the minority extremely rich, supported by the military. Priests supporting the people were also a target.

Soon after Saint Oscar Romero's appointment as Archbishop, his friend Father Rutilio Grande was murdered along with two companions. Saint Oscar Romero was greatly affected and denounced the murder.

Saint Oscar Romero soon became known as 'the voice of the voiceless' and called others to "be God's microphone", speaking up for truth.

In his sermons and via his radio station, he broadcast each week's atrocities against the campesinos and called for justice and an end to the violence.

When Saint Oscar Romero's radio station was destroyed in an effort to silence him, CAFOD helped rebuild it.



Pause to reflect

Against which injustices am I being called to 'be God's microphone'?



THE RELICS

Inside the cross are two relics. The first is Saint Oscar Romero's 'zucchetto' or skull cap, similar to that worn daily by bishops around the world. The other is a small, bloodstained fragment of a garment worn by Saint Oscar Romero when he died.

The relics are a tangible link to Saint Oscar Romero. They remind us that he was an ordinary person like us – called to be a saint, just as we too are called to sainthood.

Pause to reflect

How am I pursuing my calling to sainthood?



MARTYRDOM AND CANONISATION

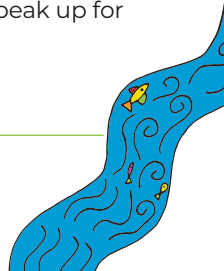
Saint Oscar Romero bravely continued his work despite receiving death threats. But on 24 March 1980, while saying Mass, he was shot and killed.

Saint Oscar Romero said, "If I am killed, I will rise up in the Salvadoran people".

Pope Francis canonised Saint Oscar Romero in 2018. As Saint Oscar Romero, his life is held up as an example that challenges people, not only in El Salvador but around the world, to speak up for justice and truth.

Pause to reflect

Which countries need my prayers today?



“Be God’s microphone!”

SAINT OSCAR ROMERO



Saint Oscar Romero,
defender of the poor,
prophet of peace,
guide and inspire us
to work for justice and reconciliation
with wisdom and compassion
in witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Amen

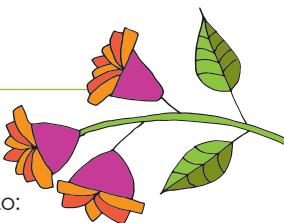
Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us.



WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?



< **Speak up for justice** around the world. Go to:
cafod.org.uk/TakeAction
to find out more.



Find out more about Romero >
cafod.org.uk/AboutRomero



< **Watch a short video** about Romero's life, with original footage of the saint
cafod.org.uk/ALifeForGod



< **There is a Spanish version** of this leaflet available online
cafod.org.uk/RomeroEspanol



**St George's
Cathedral**
SOUTHWARK

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The Archbishop
Romero Trust

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