

The National Shrine of St Oscar Romero

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SOUTHWARK



A RESOURCE FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE

The National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

>>1 One side of the cross is called 'The cross of ministry'. Work out which side, and why it is called this.



>>3 Find the two bishops pictured on the cross – Romero and Bishop Michael Evans, who helped to establish this shrine. What in the pictures shows that they are bishops?



Enjoy testing your detective skills as you explore the shrine and the life story of the amazing person remembered here >>

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born into a family of ten in El Salvador, Central America in 1917. He sometimes helped at his father's telegraph office by delivering telegrams – a quick way to send messages. Later, he learnt to be a carpenter.

At 14, Saint Oscar Romero wanted to be a Catholic priest. He left home to study. When his mother was ill and needed money for medicine, Saint Oscar Romero came home for three months to work in a gold mine, earning about 4p a day.

Later, Saint Oscar Romero studied in Rome and was ordained a priest. Saint Oscar Romero returned to El Salvador, where he did a lot of parish work like visiting prisons, organising catechism classes and working with others in the Church to provide help and food for the poor.

In 1970, Saint Oscar Romero was made a bishop.

By the mid-1970s, the rich and powerful were using the army to drive poor people from their land, torturing and killing those who stood up for their basic rights.



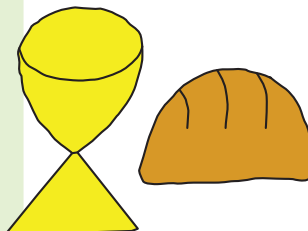
Find the sun symbol and the rho, which represent capital letters O and R in Saint Oscar Romero's name.

>>5 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 on the cross. Find it and copy it below:

>>2 Which Gospel miracle depicted on the cross reminds us of Saint Oscar Romero's helping hungry people?

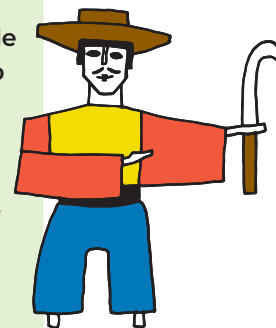


>>6 A shrine is a place where someone holy is remembered and where objects linked to that person ('relics') are kept. Which relics of Saint Oscar Romero are kept here?



>>4 Which Gospel scene depicted on the cross reminds us of the importance of the Mass for Saint Oscar Romero's?

When Saint Oscar Romero became Archbishop in 1977, some rich people were happy, thinking he would stop priests from helping the poor. But a few weeks later, his friend Fr Rutilio Grande was shot and killed, along with two companions. That Sunday, Saint Oscar Romero allowed only one Mass in the whole diocese – at the Cathedral – where he spoke out against the murders.



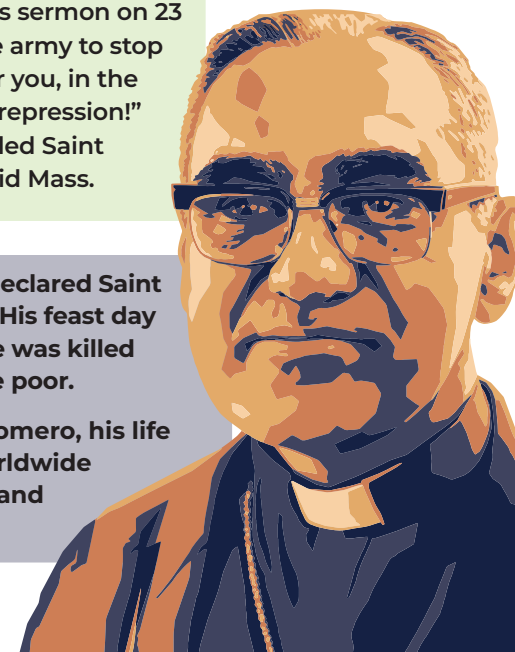
Find the image of a machete, which farmers in poor communities used to harvest their crops

The violence continued. Every week Saint Oscar Romero's radio station broadcast his sermon, naming people who had been persecuted, and calling for justice and peace. The whole country listened. Saint Oscar Romero's life was often threatened. When his radio station was bombed, CAFOD rebuilt it.

In Saint Oscar Romero's sermon on 23 March 1980, he told the army to stop killing people: "...I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!" The next day, a shot killed Saint Oscar Romero as he said Mass.

In 2018, Pope Francis declared Saint Oscar Romero a saint. His feast day is 24 March, the day he was killed for speaking up for the poor.

Now, as Saint Oscar Romero, his life challenges people worldwide to follow his example and speak out for justice.



Answers to questions on back cover >>

CREATE YOUR OWN

The artist Fernando Llort used a style, colours and symbols from El Salvador to represent aspects of Saint Oscar Romero's life and the daily lives of the Salvadoran people defended by him.

How would you use symbols from your own country and culture to decorate this cross?

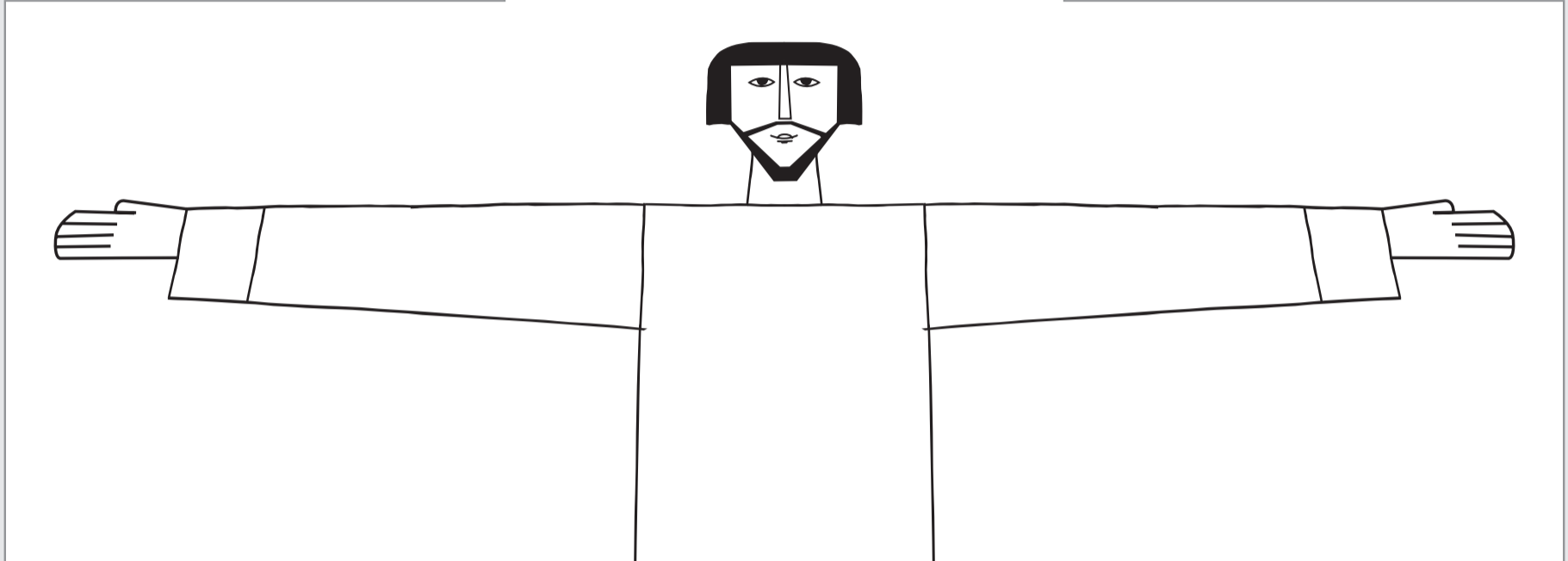
- > Decide which aspects of Saint Oscar Romero's life you want to include.
- > Decide a symbol for each.
- > Add them to the cross.

As you work, pray for people around the world who are treated unjustly.

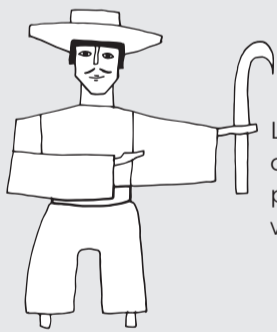


El Salvador is a small country on a strip of land that joins North and South America, called Central America.

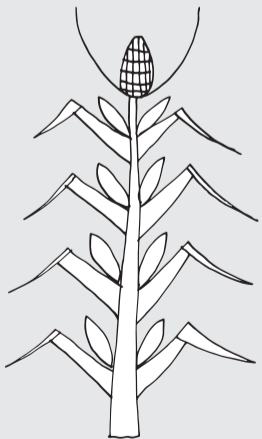
Map: By Eddo - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1524279



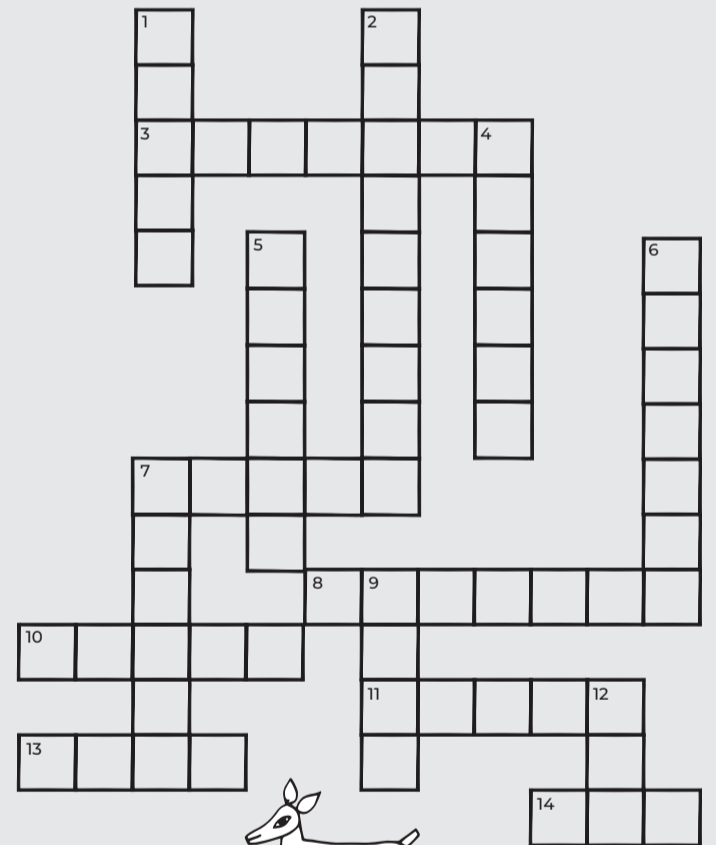
Llort's decoration of the cross reflects that Saint Oscar Romero often travelled around El Salvador's mountains and volcanoes to visit his people.



Llort included a tool for cutting crops, because many of the people Saint Oscar Romero worked with were farmers.



Llort painted maize (corn) because it is an important crop in El Salvador.



Across

3. Pope who declared Saint Oscar Romero a saint.
7. A mode of communication used by Saint Oscar Romero.
8. Saint Oscar Romero's middle name.
10. An important crop in El Salvador.
11. Flame-shaped hat worn by bishops.
13. Two of these appear on one side of the cross.
14. Number of people in Saint Oscar Romero's family.

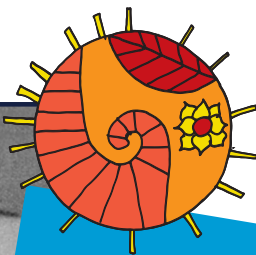
Down

1. Development agency that helped Saint Oscar Romero to communicate with his people.
2. Skull cap worn by bishops.
4. First word of Saint Oscar Romero's motto.
5. Surname of Saint Oscar Romero's priest friend who was killed.
6. Forename of Saint Oscar Romero's priest friend who was killed.
7. Items linked to a saint, for example, clothing.
9. City where Saint Oscar Romero was ordained a priest.
12. Symbol used by Llort for God the Father

Crossword solutions

1. The answer / 2. Solution / 3. this / 4. The answer / 5. Solution / 6. this / 7. The answer / 8. Solution / 9. this / 10. The answer / 11. Solution / 12. this

Will you...



“be God’s microphone!”



Saint Oscar Romero, defender of the poor, prophet of peace, guide and inspire us to work for justice and reconciliation. Help us to be ‘microphones’ for God, speaking up for justice, in witness to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us.

“Each one of you has to be God’s microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet.”

Saint Oscar Romero

ANSWERS:
1. It shows two stories from Jesus’ ministry—the three years when Jesus was ministering to people. 2. The loaves and fishes/feeding of the 5000. 3 Each is wearing a ‘mitre’ - headwear worn by bishops in church. 4. The Last Supper 5. Sentir con la Iglesia 6. The zucchetto or skull cap worn by Romero each day; a small piece of Romero’s robe.

CAF7540

Take action for justice at: CAFOD.org.uk/getinvolved

Illustration: Fernando Llort.
Photos: CAFOD / Equipo Maiz.
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CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

The Archbishop **Romero Trust**

St George’s Cathedral
SOUTH WARK

