

Archbishop Romero Trust

PO Box 70227, London E9 9BR

romerotrust@gmail.com

16th Trustees' Annual Report - Year Ending April 2020

The Archbishop Romero Trust - also known as the Romero Trust - is a registered charity (number 1110069). It is governed by a Trust Deed executed on 6th September 2004 amended by a deed of variation dated 9th June 2005. The purposes of the Trust are: a) to advance the education of the public in the life and works of Oscar Romero, the martyred Archbishop of San Salvador, and his principles of human rights, social justice and the relief of poverty; b) to advance religion by promoting liturgical celebrations including commemorations of the life of Oscar Romero and prayer for the recognition of his sanctity in the Christian Church; and c) the relief of poverty and the promotion of human rights and social justice (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations Conventions and Declarations and in "Gaudium et Spes", the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council) in Latin America in memory of Oscar Romero.

Governance

The trustees are Dr Julian Filochowski CMG, OBE (Chair), Mr Stephen Davies (Moderator/Vice-Chair), Ms Clare Dixon OBE (Secretary), Rev. Richard Carter, Dr Jan Graffius, Sister Eileen McLoughlin SSHJM, Rev. Jim O'Keefe, Rt. Rev. John Rawsthorne, Mr David Skidmore OBE, and Rev. Dr Frank Turner SJ. Mr Stephen Lloyd is the Trust's Honorary Treasurer and Ms Madge Rondo is the Trust's Honorary Membership Secretary. The mandates of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer run until September 2020.

The Trust is honoured to have Archbishop Leo Cushley, Sister Maria Julia Garcia, Very Rev. Dr John Hall, Sister Pamela Hussey SHCJ, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop John Sentamu, Mgr. Rafael Urrutia and Lord Rowan Williams as its Patrons.

The Trust has no offices of its own; but the registered address is PO Box 70227, London E9 9BR and 57 Lyme Grove, London E9 6PX.

The trustees met on July 30th 2019, October 23rd 2019, and January 30th 2020 to approve budgets and project grants and to oversee the Trust's

annual programme of activities. CAFOD generously provided hospitality for Trust meetings. In making decisions and exercising their powers the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. Additionally, on June 21st 2019, the trustees arranged a special consultative meeting, together with a group of external advisors, to begin a process to discern possible future strategies for the Trust in the wake of Oscar Romero's canonisation.

The Romero Shrine

In July 2019, a committed supporter of the Trust, Bishop John Wilson, was installed as Archbishop of Southwark following the retirement of Archbishop Peter Smith. In his first Cathedral sermon Archbishop Wilson underlined the inspiration he had received from St Oscar Romero. Subsequently he issued Statutes setting out both the purpose and the governance of the Romero Diocesan Shrine in St George's Cathedral. This included the appointment of four 'Guardians' to assist the Cathedral Dean in the administration and promotion of the Shrine. At the same time the Trust formally transferred ownership of the Romero Cross and the first-class Romero relics to the diocese of Southwark. Unfortunately, the ceremony to commission the Guardians of the Shrine, scheduled for March 2020, had to be postponed because of the corona virus lockdown.

It was a shock to the Trust when, following a short illness, Emeritus Archbishop Peter Smith died on March 6th 2020. The 'Friends of Romero' owe him a great debt of gratitude. He had welcomed the Romero relics for permanent display in his Cathedral, inaugurated and blessed the Romero Cross and reliquary, and decreed the Romero Chapel to be an official Diocesan Shrine on the day of Romero's canonisation in 2018. May he rest in peace.

Romero Memorial Lecture

On September 25th Dr David McLoughlin of Newman University, Birmingham, delivered the 2019 Romero Memorial Lecture 'Prophetic Trajectories of Hope from San Salvador to Liverpool' in the Cornerstone Theatre of Liverpool Hope University. The packed audience included Liverpool's archbishop, Malcolm McMahon. The lecture, described as a celebration of the ministries of Oscar Romero, Austin Smith, Kevin Kelly, and Tom Cullinan, was preceded by a Memorial Mass celebrated by Bishop John Rawsthorne in the nearby St Francis Xavier Church. Later in 2019, the Trust made a gift to the Liverpool diocese of a small reliquary containing a first-class relic of St Oscar Romero for permanent display in

the Metropolitan Cathedral. Unfortunately, an ecumenical service in the cathedral which was to have included the formal presentation of the relic had to be postponed because of the corona crisis.

Trust Pilgrimage to El Salvador

The fourth Romero Trust pilgrimage to El Salvador took place in November 2019. 28 pilgrims, from Britain, Ireland and the United States, led by Clare Dixon supported by Anthony Coles, spent 11 days visiting the martyrdom sites across the country. The visits were enriched by audio-visual presentations and talks from living witnesses to the events which culminated in the assassination of Oscar Romero and other prophetic figures in the gallery of El Salvador's martyrs. From the formal feedback it is clear that the journey was an inspiring and educational experience for all the pilgrim participants.

St Oscar Romero in the Caribbean

In May 2019, the Trust's Chair led two days of retreat and study for the annual assembly of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) in Cayenne, French Guiana. The programme of prayer and lectures focused on the life, ministry, and martyrdom of St Oscar Romero. Some 20 bishops and archbishops from the English and French-speaking nations of the Caribbean attended, together with AEC officials and the Papal Nuncio. The success of this study-retreat led to a subsequent invitation from the Archbishop of Castries to give the annual clergy retreat in St Lucia in February 2020. It had the same central focus on Romero and was warmly appreciated by the priests, deacons and lay leaders who attended.

Romero Events in Britain

On August 10th 2019 the Trust once again arranged a special Mass and reception in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, to mark the 102nd anniversary of Oscar Romero's birth. The theme chosen was 'Romero - Inspiration in Troubled Times' and Canon Alan McLean presided and preached.

On September 18th 2019, the Eliot Smith Dance Company performed the premiere of their 'Oscar Romero' composition in St Mary's Cathedral Newcastle. This had been commissioned by the Trust to form part of the company's 'Portraits of Courage' suite of dances. This was with a view to its inclusion in events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom in March 2020. These further performances have been re-scheduled for 2021.

On October 12th 2019 there was a special gathering of members of the Salvadoran community in Britain at the Drapers Hall at Elephant and Castle in London organised in conjunction with the Trust. The Romero film 'Righting the Wrong' was shown and the evening included a bilingual panel discussion and hot Salvadoran 'pupusas' for those attending. The Trust also arranged for the film to be shown in the course of the year in Widnes, Dulwich, Bath, Leeds, Washington and Canterbury.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

In the midst of the pandemic lockdown, the BBC Radio 4 Sunday Service on the morning of March 29th 2020 came from (a necessarily deserted) Wesley's Chapel in London. The liturgy had a special Romero focus to mark the 40th anniversary, five days earlier, of his 1980 martyrdom. Arranged in collaboration with the Trust, the sermon was delivered by Edgardo Colon-Emeric speaking from Duke University in North Carolina. Using the themes of Lament, Hope and Witness he intertwined for his listeners a Romero context for the pandemic issues suddenly being faced in Britain and the United States. His text was subsequently made available on the Trust website and via social media. The BBC also invited Fr Jim O'Keefe from the Trust to deliver Radio 4's 'Prayer for the Day', with a focus on Oscar Romero and El Salvador, each morning through the week of the 40th anniversary.

Edgardo Colon-Emeric was to have been the Trust's guest speaker in England and Wales for that last week in March 2020, but with the imposition of quarantine and the lockdown, he had been compelled to cancel his transatlantic flight. He had been scheduled to deliver formal lectures and informal presentations at educational and religious gatherings arranged to celebrate the Romero 40th anniversary. All the events had to be cancelled apart from his address, mentioned above, which was used in the Service from Wesley's Chapel broadcast by the BBC. The Trust has arranged to bring Edgardo to Britain in 2021.

Romero Solar Park

The project for a Romero Solar Park in the Salvadoran department of Chalatenango continues to progress but more slowly than had been anticipated. It could become a very significant legacy of the Romero canonisation if it proves feasible and if the necessary financial capital can be accessed. The Trust has worked closely with Mark Dowd, whose annual visits and personal financial contributions to community projects in Arcatao

have been critical in keeping the solar park concept on track. Technical difficulties with accessing the national grid mean that the solar park would now have to be sited outside the Arcatao municipality. With the backing of the bishop of Chalatenango, there is a modified proposal to use diocesan land elsewhere as the new site for the solar park.

Fr Rutilio Grande SJ

The Cause for the Beatification of Rutilio Grande and his two lay companions, Manuel Solorzano and Nelson Lemus, assassinated by a death squad within days of Archbishop Romero's installation in San Salvador, is virtually complete. A declaration from Pope Francis that they were martyrs, killed 'out of hatred of the faith', was published on February 21st 2020. The beatification is expected to take place in El Salvador at the same time as the beatification of Fr Cosme Spessotto OFM - but no date has yet been set. The Trust has continued to assist in the translation into English and editing of the authoritative biography of Rutilio Grande, written by Rodolfo Cardenal. It will be published by the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies at Boston College in the United States in late 2020.

Social Communications

The Trust has frequent posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter coordinated by Stephen Davies. These postings regularly make use of quotations from St Oscar Romero's homilies for the particular Sundays, helping people access the richness of the saint's reflections. The social media posts offer links to the Trust's website whenever appropriate. There are approximately 1300 members of the Romero Trust Facebook Group, around 1700 followers on Twitter and 350 on Instagram - representing a substantial increase on the previous year.

The 23rd and 24th issues of Romero News, the Trust's twice-yearly newsletter edited by Clare Dixon, were distributed to some nine hundred 'Friends of Romero' in July 2019 and January 2020 - both the printed version and electronically.

Trust Grants and Finances

With the assistance of the Carmelite Friars in Britain, the Trust once again made a grant of US\$5000 (£3800) towards the running costs of the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital. Thanks to a contribution of £1500 from Old St Paul's Church in Edinburgh plus several gifts from individual donors, further grants totalling US\$4220 (£3134) were made towards the

palliative care programmes. These grants contributed directly to the public good.

The Trust has no salaried staff members and relies on the voluntary work of its Trustees and other benefactors. The bankers for the Trust are the Cooperative Bank plc. For the year ending April 2020 total income came to £66,649. Leaving aside restricted income earmarked for specific programmes, the unrestricted income of the Trust totalled £14,472. This was matched by expenditure of £15,765, giving a deficit for the year in unrestricted funds of £1,293. As a result, £11,396 will be carried forward to 2020/21. The balance sheet shows the figure for total funds held of £62,159 - of which £45,000 is a restricted fund reserved for a capital project at the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital. The Trust needs to hold reserves in order to be able to continue to meet its obligations and deliver its programme of activities even in the event of a delay or shortfall in funding. The corona crisis has led to the cancellation of many Trust events, but it is not anticipated there will be a significant impact on Trust income in the financial year 2020-21. The trustees estimate that reserves of not less than £5,000 are required to provide adequate mitigation against such risks; this estimate is reviewed as the programme of activities develops. Reserves at April 5th 2020 are comfortably in excess of the policy requirement. The relevant financial information is to be lodged with the Charity Commission.

Postscript

In a special investiture ceremony on February 11th 2020, the Trust's Honorary Treasurer, Stephen Lloyd, and the Membership Secretary, Madge Rondo were installed by the Archbishop of Southwark as members of the Pontifical Order of St Sylvester with the insignia of Knight and Dame respectively. This was in recognition of their dedicated service over several decades responding to global poverty and promoting human rights and social justice through their work in CAFOD and the Romero Trust.

Julian Filochowski
Chair, Archbishop Romero Trust

June 2020

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST

Registered Charity no 1110069

Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 5th April 2020

	£	£	£	£
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	2018/9
Receipts				
Christian Aid Grant: Centenary Year	-	-	-	-
Donations for Fe y Alegria, La Chacra	520.00	-	520.00	-
Donations for Hospital Divina Providencia:				
Carmelite grant for running costs	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
Oaklands School	-	-	-	3,200.00
Old St Pauls	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	-
Other donations	1,907.75	-	1,907.75	3,010.80
<i>Total Donations for Hospital Divina Providencia</i>	<u>6,407.75</u>		<u>6,407.75</u>	
Donation for Romero Bust	-	-	-	3,494.75
Donation from SCIAF	-	-	-	260.00
Gift Aid claimed	-	592.69	592.69	1,773.84
Grants for Intergenerational Justice and Peace Work	250.00	-	250.00	1,600.00
Hospital Legacy Project Income	45,000.00	-	45,000.00	-
Pilgrimage Fund	-	-	-	1,679.82
Receipts from Positio on Romero	-	-	-	3,359.65
Romero Solar Park Arcatao (Jesuit Missions)	-	-	-	2,000.00
Romero Space Southwark (Carmelites/Assumption Srs)	-	-	-	10,000.00
Sale of books*	-	4,386.05	4,386.05	25,466.39
St Martin-in-the-Fields collection	-	-	-	271.56
Sundry donations	-	9,492.81	9,492.81	12,017.61
TOTAL RECEIPTS	52,177.75	14,471.55	66,649.30	71,134.42
Payments				
1. Grants paid				
Hospital Divina Providencia	6,934.42	-	6,934.42	10,135.27
Iglesia Catolica en El Salvador	-	-	-	6,250.49
Solar Park Arcatao	780.00	-	780.00	-
<i>Total Grants paid</i>	<u>7,714.42</u>		<u>7,714.42</u>	<u>16,385.76</u>
2. Promotion of Romero's name				
Copies of Positio Mons Romero	-	-	-	2,214.00
Dance Project	-	3,602.90	3,602.90	-
Digitalisation of Romero Archive	-	-	-	1,500.00
Pilgrimage contribution	-	-	-	1,679.82
Publicity materials	-	1,584.96	1,584.96	5,110.80
Purchase of books	-	4,092.20	4,092.20	22,612.92
Romero Bust	-	-	-	3,550.00
Romero Homilies Translation	-	-	-	2,447.79
Romero Memorial Service	-	333.00	333.00	521.51
Romero News	-	2,560.49	2,560.49	2,365.02
Romero Play	-	-	-	904.90
Romero Space, Southwark	-	-	-	10,000.00
Travel & other expenses	-	1,206.37	1,206.37	2,686.49
<i>Total Promotion of Romero's name</i>		<u>13,379.92</u>	<u>13,379.92</u>	<u>55,593.25</u>

	£	£	£	£
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	2018/9
3. Intergenerational Justice & Peace Conversation	249.49	-	249.49	9,319.38
4. Conservation Project				
Airtickets	-	836.04	836.04	-
5. Administrative expenses				
Bank Charges	-	56.76	56.76	163.63
Governance Expenses	-	350.95	350.95	-
Laptop and software	-	189.99	189.99	59.99
Other expenses	-	6.13	6.13	69.68
Stationery and postage	-	270.00	270.00	365.69
Telephone	-	65.76	65.76	70.32
Volunteer expenses/events	-	609.45	609.45	-
Total Administrative expenses	-	1,549.04	1,549.04	729.31
TOTAL PAYMENTS	7,963.91	15,765.00	23,728.91	82,027.70
Excess of Receipts over Payments (-Payments over Receipts)	44,213.84	- 1,293.45	42,920.39	- 10,893.28
Balance of funds brought forward from previous year	6,549.21	12,689.57	19,238.78	30,132.06
Balance of funds carried forward to next year	50,763.05	11,396.12	62,159.17	19,238.78

Balance Sheet at 5th April 2020

	£	£	05/04/2019
Current Assets			
Balance in book account		458.21	732.73
Balance at bank		61,700.96	18,506.05
Total		62,159.17	19,238.78
Income Funds			
Unrestricted funds		11,396.12	12,689.57
Restricted funds			
Fe y Alegria School, La Chacra	520.00		-
Hospital Divina Providencia	3,753.91		4,280.58
Hospital Legacy Project	45,000.00		
Romero Solar Park Arcatao	1,220.00		2,000.00
Intergenerational Justice & Peace Work	269.14		268.63
Total Restricted Funds		50,763.05	6,549.21
Total		62,159.17	19,238.78

Approved by:

Trustee *John Renshaw*
Date... *4 August 2020*

Trustee *David Skidmore*
Date... *6 August 2020*

* Note: The Trust distributes books and crosses related to the life, works and spirituality of Oscar Romero and his teaching and theological principles of human rights, social justice and the relief of poverty.

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Archbishop Romero Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Archbishop Romero Trust ('the charity' or 'the Trust') for the year ended 5th April 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michael P. W. Egan FCA
7 John Spencer Square
London N1 2LZ

6 August 2020