

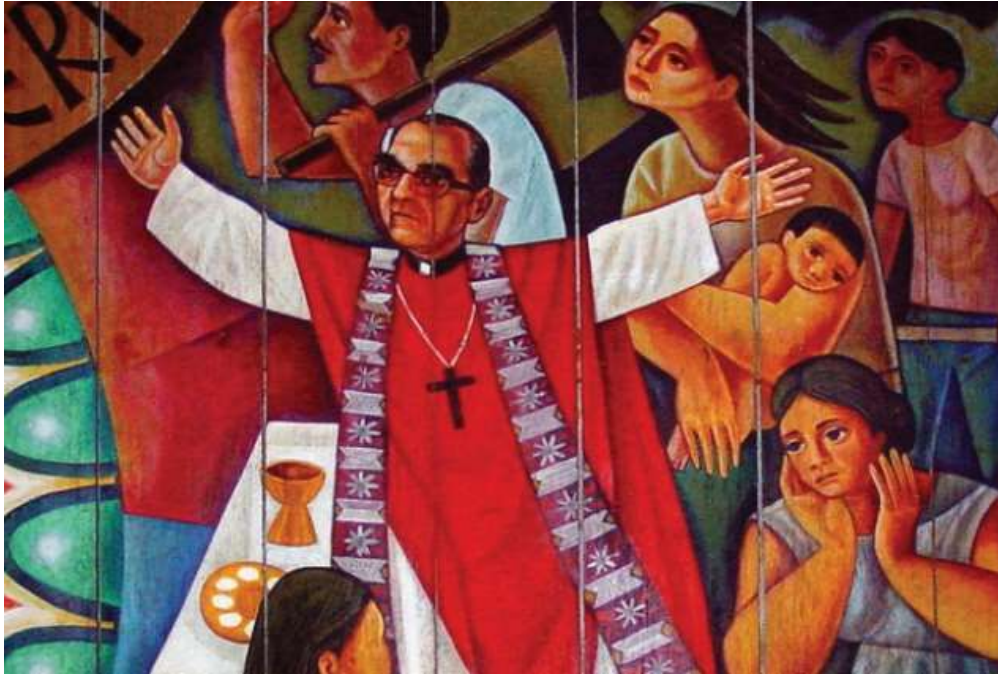


# ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL SOUTHWARK

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST GEORGE



## **A MASS TO MARK THE 103<sup>RD</sup> BIRTHDAY OF ST. OSCAR ROMERO SATURDAY, 15 AUGUST 2020**



***Principal Celebrant & Preacher - Mgr. John O' Toole - Episcopal Vicar in Kent***



Archbishop Romero Trust

## **Welcome & Introduction**

**Penitential Act:** We gather to remember the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Saint Oscar Romero, recognising the living witness of a Bishop and Martyr of our own times. The Lord invites us to give thanks for the gift of salvation which the God of mercy gives to each person. We humbly ask pardon for our sins so that we may be worthy to come to the table of the Lord as we now prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries ...

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the nations: Lord, have mercy - **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are transfigured Saviour: Christ, have mercy - **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are source of healing and reconciliation: Lord, have mercy - **Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

## **Collect Prayer**

Almighty and merciful God, who were pleased to adorn the Bishop and Martyr, Saint Oscar with the grace of laying down his life and of confessing his love for you while celebrating the Eucharist, graciously grant, we pray, that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion through his death, so we may follow in his footsteps, and be worthy to attain eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A reading from the Letter to Romans*

(8:31-39)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. As scripture promised: For your sake we are being massacred daily and reckoned as sheep for the slaughter. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm : Ps. 125 (126) - C J Olding**



*When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage it seemed like a dream.*

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.*

*The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'*

*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. **Response ...***

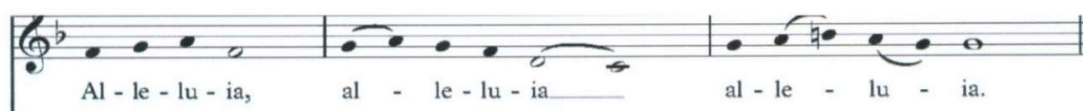
*Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.*

*Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.*

*They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:*

*They come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **Response ...***

## **Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia ...**



*Blessed are those persecuted for justice sake; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

(12: 20-26)

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we should like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serve me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serve me, my Father will honour him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### ***Homily***

### ***Bidding Prayers***

Inspired by the example of those holy ones who, in their lives, were salt for the earth and light for the world, and uniting our prayer with the immense multitude of those who stand in the presence of God, we now pray:

For all who believe in Christ: that like Saint Oscar Romero we may be witnesses of the love and justice of God in the world and signs of unity. Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

For the poorest peoples and communities across the world: that the example of Oscar Romero's faith doing justice might inspire a lively commitment to solidarity amongst all peoples, praying particularly for El Salvador, that violence may be overcome by harmony, poverty by prosperity, and conflict by peace. Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

For our global family: that as governments seek sustainable goals for aid and human development, so too may CAFOD, Christian Aid, and other agencies committed to be the voices of those who have no voice, be inspired by the words and deeds of Saint Oscar Romero. Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

For the work of the Archbishop Romero Trust, and the ministries and witness to the memory of Saint Oscar Romero in this Cathedral Church of St. George, in Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, and St. Alban's Abbey, and many other places: that we may continue to be inspired by the lives and deaths of all our martyrs to build up the common good and a richer unity in faith. Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have died, working for justice, peace, and unity: that they may inherit joy and peace, remembering Bishop Michael Evans, and all unknown victims of war and violence in El Salvador and other places in Central America. Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

For all who are gathered here: that we might imitate the values which drove Saint Oscar Romero in his journey of faith and search for justice, as we now pray in some moments of silence, remembering all those throughout the world, and particularly in poorer nations, who are in any way affected by Covid-19 ..... Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer.**

And we unite our prayers with Mary, Mother of the Poor, as we say: **Hail Mary** .....

Loving God, you called your servant Oscar Romero to be a voice for the voiceless poor, and to give his life as a seed of freedom and a sign of hope: Grant that, inspired by his sacrifice and the example of all the martyrs of El Salvador, we may without fear or favour witness to your Word who abides, your Word who is Life, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise and glory now and for ever. **Amen**



### ***Prayer over the offerings***

Make holy with your blessing, O Lord, these offerings which we make, and give us the grace to live burning with the fire of your love which gave the bishop and martyr, Saint Oscar, the strength to endure sufferings. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Spiritual Communion***

**Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.**

### ***Prayer after Communion***

Lord, may the sacrament we have received give us the strength with which the bishop and martyr, St. Oscar Romero, always showed himself faithful to your service and overcame suffering. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

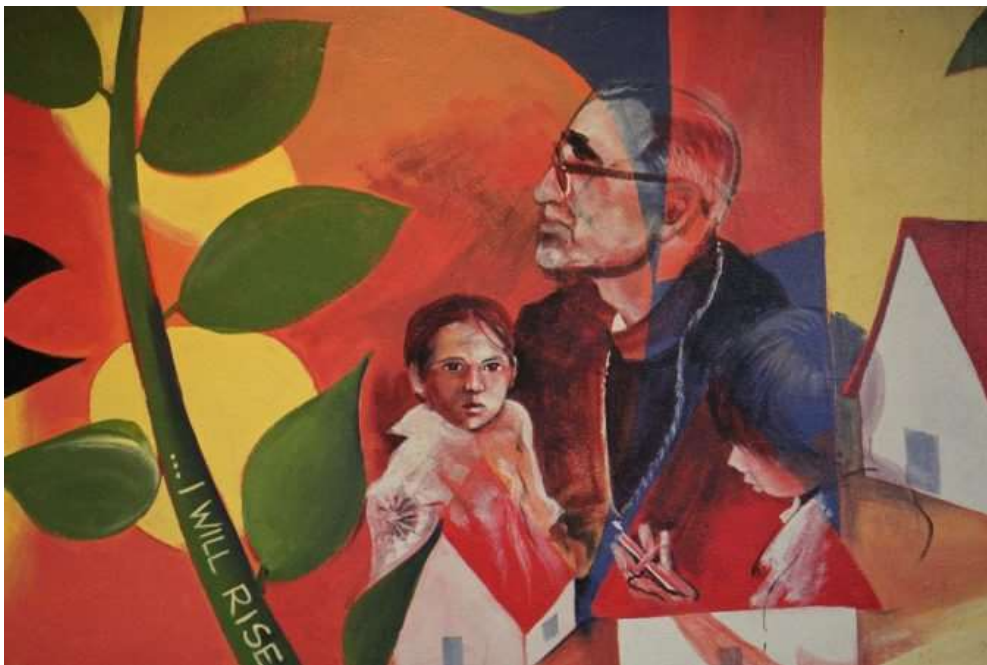
May the Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**

May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy. **Amen.**

May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



**CONTACT:** [romerotrust@gmail.com](mailto:romerotrust@gmail.com) / [www.romerotrust.org.uk](http://www.romerotrust.org.uk)

Archbishop Romero Trust: Registered Charity Number - 1110069