

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
(Registered Charity No. 1110069)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

Registered charity number	1110069
Registered office	PO Box 70227 London E9 9BR
Postal address	57 Lyme Grove London E9 6PX
Trustees	Dr. Julian Filochowski CMG, OBE (Co-Chair) Mr. Stephen Davies (Co-Chair) Ms. Clare Dixon OBE (Co-Chair) Mr. Michael Egan (Treasurer) Rev. Richard Carter Dr. Jan Graffius Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson Sister Eileen McLoughlin SSHJM Rev. James O'Keefe Mr. David Skidmore OBE Rev. Dr. Frank Turner SJ
Membership secretary	Ms. Jenny Rossiter
Patrons	Archbishop Leo Cushley Sister Maria Julia Garcia Very Rev. Dr. John Hall Archbishop Emeritus Diarmuid Martin Cardinal Vincent Nichols Lord John Sentamu Mgr. Rafael Urrutia Lord Rowan Williams
Website	www.romerotrust.org.uk
Contact us at	romerotrust@gmail.com

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

The trustees present the 21st Annual Report of the Archbishop Romero Trust for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Objectives

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.

Activities and achievements

The 'Romero Mass' setting commissioned from composer Chris Olding was handed over in November 2024 to Southwark's Archbishop John Wilson and his cathedral Director of Music. Parts from the Mass were sung in St George's Cathedral in March 2025 with a formal choral rendition planned for November 2025 to mark the Trust's 20th anniversary.

On 13 July 2024 the joint CAFOD - Romero Trust pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, led by the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, Stephen Wright, took place with 40 pilgrims walking across the sands while the tide was out. Others arrived in motor vehicles, making a total of some 120 present for the talks and the closing liturgical celebration in the island's St Mary's Anglican Church.

On 18 October 2024 the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre hosted a Romero Lecture to mark the 6th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's canonisation. The meeting was co-sponsored with SCIAF, Justice and Peace Scotland, Pax Christi, and ICN. The lecture, with the theme 'Romero and Ukraine - Resilience in the Face of Injustice', was delivered by Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Britain. He compared and contrasted the ministries of El Salvador's St Oscar Romero in 1980 and Ukraine's Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk today. Glasgow's archbishop, William Nolan, was amongst the guests in attendance.

'Excavating Hope' was the theme chosen by the Trust for Romero Week in March 2025. In conjunction with local parishes and networks the Trust coordinated the arrangements for a series of meetings and celebratory liturgies in London, Liverpool, St Albans and Leeds. They were co-sponsored by CAFOD, Missio, Christian Aid, Pax Christi, and the National Justice and Peace Network. The guest speaker in Leeds and Liverpool was the Mexican Jesuit priest, Luis Orlando Perez. He also preached at the Spanish-language Mass in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, similarly focused on 'excavating hope' through Romero.

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The Trust was privileged to welcome Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald MAfr to deliver the Address at the National Ecumenical Service at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 22 March 2025. The following day Sister Gemma Simmonds CJ preached at the Romero-focused Choral Evensong in St Alban's Cathedral.

On 27 March 2025 Archbishop Wilson presided at the lunchtime Eucharist in St George's Cathedral. Organised in conjunction with the Diocesan Education Commission and the Oscar Romero Award Trust, the Service included visits by class groups to the cathedral's Romero Shrine and the presentation of Oscar Romero Award certificates to qualifying schools in the diocese.

A series of guided Romero Walks in Central London have been designed by Jenny Rossiter. They last up to two hours and include St George's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and other places where links can be made to the Romero story. The Walk was trialled satisfactorily on 6 February 2025 and subsequently on 29 March 2025 it was included as a Lenten walk for the ecumenical churches partnership group at the Barbican.

2025 is the 20th anniversary of the Romero Trust. In July 2025, Trustees undertook a facilitated two day residential to review and plan strategically for the future. There will also be a Thanksgiving Mass and Reception on 1 November 2025, celebrated by Archbishop Wilson in St George's Cathedral. We hope to resume Trust-sponsored pilgrimages to El Salvador when circumstances permit.

Communications

The Trust has frequent posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter coordinated by Stephen Davies. These posts often include quotations from St Oscar Romero's Sunday homilies and so enable a wider audience to become aware of the richness of the saint's reflections. The social media posts offer links to the Trust's website whenever appropriate. There are approximately 2,700 members of the Romero Trust Facebook Group, around 3,000 followers on X (formerly Twitter) and 1,200 on Instagram – representing a substantial increase on the previous year.

It is ten years since the current version of the Romero Trust website was launched. It is in need of updating, especially increasing its online security, and this is a priority for the year ahead to ensure the site is available to visitors from across the English-speaking world as a resource bank on St Oscar Romero.

The 34th and 35th issues of *Romero News*, the Trust's twice-yearly newsletter edited by Clare Dixon, were distributed by post and email to some 900 'Friends of Romero' in September 2024 and January 2025.

Financial review

With the assistance of the Carmelite Friars in Britain, the parish of St James the Great in Petts Wood, individual donors, and a legacy left by the late Michael Lewis, the Trust made grants totalling £21,871 (2024: £23,545) to the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital in San Salvador. These grants have been applied to a new dedicated physiotherapy room, the renovation of the roof of St. Oscar Romero's bungalow, and a small contribution to general operating costs.

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

Total income for the year came to £17,186 (2024: £26,075), comprising restricted income earmarked for specific programmes of £9,339 (2024: £15,333) and unrestricted income of £7,847 (2024: £10,742). Unrestricted expenditure amounted to £6,875 (2024: £11,845), giving a surplus for the year in unrestricted funds of £972 (2023: deficit of £1,103).

The balance sheet as at 5 April 2025 shows total funds held of £5,713 (2024: £17,273), comprising restricted funds totalling £nil (2024: £12,532) and unrestricted funds of £5,713 (2024: £4,741).

The Trust needs to hold reserves (i.e. unrestricted funds) 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 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 as at 5 April 2025 amount to £5,713, slightly more than the policy requirement. The Trustees continue to exercise careful oversight of the Trust's activities and commitments so that the Trust remains financially resilient.

Structure, governance and management

Archbishop Romero Trust is a registered charity, number 1110069. It is governed by a Trust Deed executed on 6 September 2004 amended by a deed of variation dated 9 June 2005.

The Trust employs no staff and its activities are carried out entirely by trustees and other volunteers.

The trustees met three times during the financial year. In making decisions and exercising their powers, the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

By order of the Board



Julian Filochowski
Co-Chair

6 October 2025

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025**

	Note	Year ended 5 April 2025			Year ended 5 April 2024		
		Rest- stricted £	Unrest- stricted £	Total £	Rest- stricted £	Unrest- stricted £	Total £
Receipts:							
Donations		6,339	6,396	12,735	12,333	7,933	20,266
Grants	2	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Sale of books and devotional items		-	1,451	1,451	-	2,809	2,809
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		9,339	7,847	17,186	15,333	10,742	26,075
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Payments:							
Grants	3	21,871	-	21,871	23,545	-	23,545
Promotion of Romero's name	4	-	5,293	5,293	2,000	10,720	12,720
Administration and governance	5	-	1,582	1,582	-	1,125	1,125
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		21,871	6,875	28,746	25,545	11,845	37,390
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus / (deficit)		(12,532)	972	(11,560)	(10,212)	(1,103)	(11,315)
Funds brought forward		12,532	4,741	17,273	22,744	5,844	28,588
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds carried forward		-	5,713	5,713	12,532	4,741	17,273
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ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
5 APRIL 2025

	Note	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	5 April 2025 Total £	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	5 April 2024 Total £
Assets:							
Cash at bank		-	5,713	5,713	12,532	4,741	17,273
Restricted funds: 6							
Hospital Divina Providencia		-	-	-	9,311	-	9,311
Hospital Legacy Project		-	-	-	3,221	-	3,221
Total restricted funds		-	-	-	12,532	-	12,532
Unrestricted funds		-	5,713	5,713	-	4,741	4,741
Total funds		-	5,713	5,713	12,532	4,741	17,273

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Michael Egan
Treasurer
6 October 2025

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Having reviewed the financial position and future plans for the charity, the trustees have identified no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue its activities for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

2. Grants received

	Year ended 5 April 2025			Year ended 5 April 2024		
	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	Total £	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	Total £
Carmelite Province of GB	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>

3. Grants paid

	Year ended 5 April 2025			Year ended 5 April 2024		
	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	Total £	Rest- ricted £	Unrest- ricted £	Total £
Hospital Divina Providencia	18,650	-	18,650	9,808	-	9,808
Hospital Legacy	3,221	-	3,221	13,737	-	13,737
	<u>21,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,871</u>	<u>23,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,545</u>

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

4. Promotion of Romero's name

	Year ended 5 April 2025			Year ended 5 April 2024		
	Rest- stricted	Unrest- stricted	Total	Rest- stricted	Unrest- stricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Events and memorial services	-	487	487	-	562	562
Romero News	-	2,607	2,607	-	2,603	2,603
Purchase of books and devotional items	-	1,469	1,469	-	2,361	2,361
Film licence	-	-	-	2,000	2,530	4,530
Publicity materials	-	730	730	-	730	730
Website and digital archive	-	-	-	-	895	895
Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	-	1,039	1,039
	-	5,293	5,293	2,000	10,720	12,720

5. Administration and governance

	Year ended 5 April 2025			Year ended 5 April 2024		
	Rest- stricted	Unrest- stricted	Total	Rest- stricted	Unrest- stricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Postage and stationery	-	667	667	-	446	446
IT	-	-	-	-	250	250
Telephone	-	92	92	-	86	86
Independent examination fee	-	600	600	-	-	-
Governance costs	-	223	223	-	343	343
	-	1,582	1,582	-	1,125	1,125

6. Movements on restricted funds

	6 April 2024		Receipts	Payments	Transfers	5 April 2025	
	£	£				£	£
2024-25:							
Hospital Divina Providencia	9,311	9,339	(18,650)	-	-	-	-
Hospital Legacy Project	3,221	-	(3,221)	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	12,532	9,339	(21,871)	-	-	-	-

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

6. Movements on restricted funds (continued)

	6 April				5 April
	2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	2024
2023-24:	£	£	£	£	£
Hospital Divina Providencia	5,786	13,333	(9,808)	-	9,311
Hospital Legacy Project	16,958	-	(13,737)	-	3,221
Film licence	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	22,744	15,333	(25,545)	-	12,532

Hospital Divina Providencia: to support the running costs of the 'Hospitalito' for palliative patient care and the upkeep of the Romero relics pilgrim centre.

Hospital Legacy Project: from the estate of the late Michael Lewis, for the benefit of the 'Hospitalito'. Grants from this fund in 2022-23 paid for the purchase and installation of 80 solar panels for the roofs of the hospital buildings, which should generate enough power to meet 90% of the hospital's needs.

Film licence: for the right to show the film 'What Lucia Saw' on our website for five years.