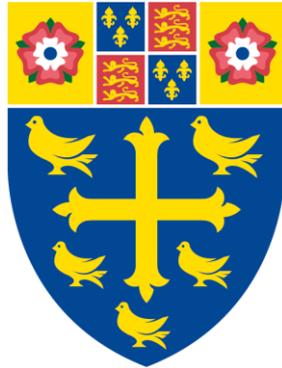


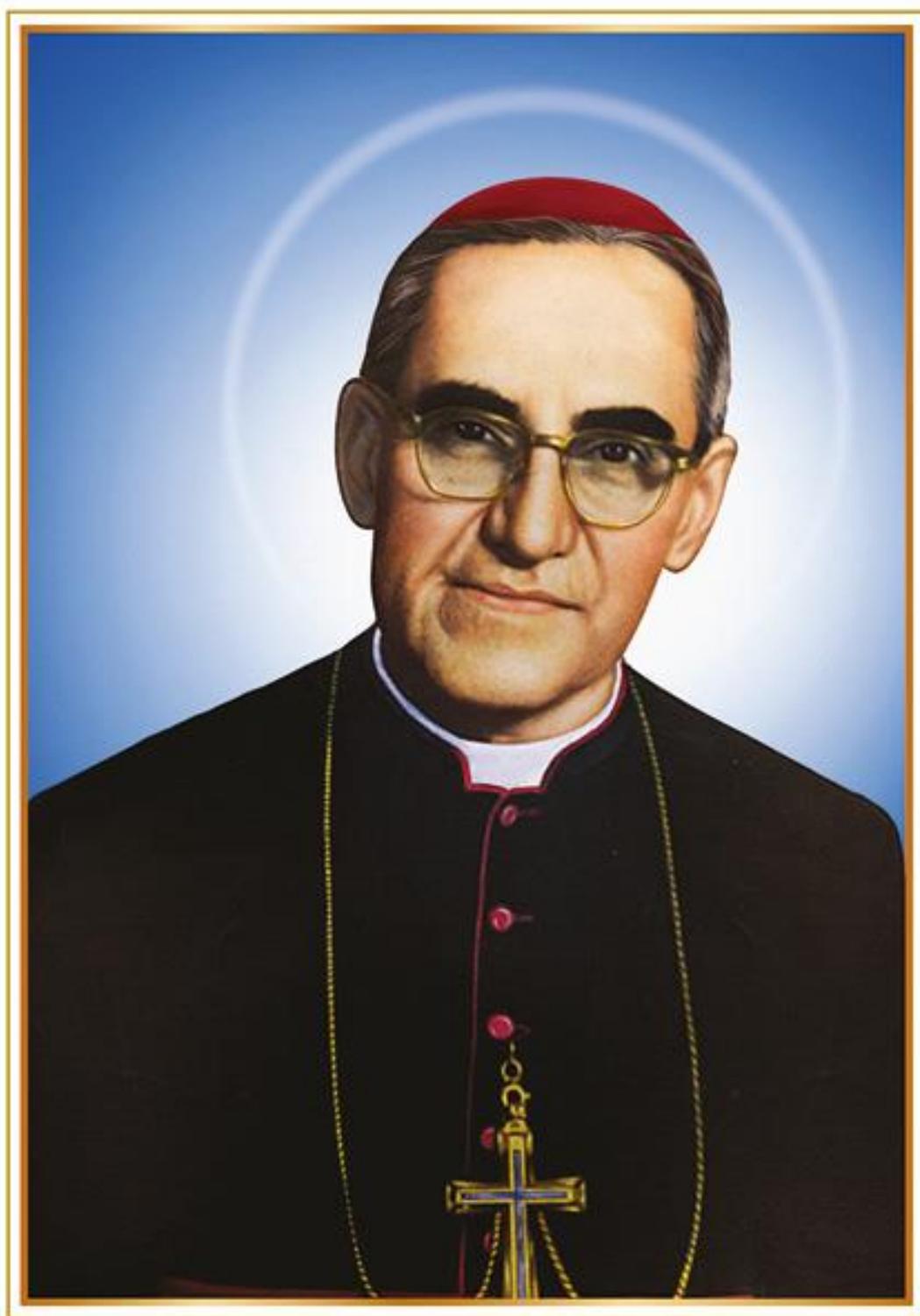
Westminster Abbey



Solemn Evensong of Thanksgiving for the Canonisation of St Oscar Romero

Saturday 17th November 2018

3.00 pm



ST OSCAR ROMERO
BISHOP AND MARTYR

Oscar Romero was born in 1917 to a family of modest means in the small town of Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador. He went to the seminary at thirteen, studied for the priesthood in Rome, and was ordained in 1942. At work in San Miguel he was a zealous pastor with a simple lifestyle; shy and bookish. He was close to and much loved by the communities he served. In 1970 he was made a bishop; and in 1977, to the shock of many, he was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. There followed three tumultuous years of ministry at the head of the archdiocese in his strife-torn country before his assassination.

El Salvador is a small country in Central America named after Christ the Saviour. In 1977, it had a population of about four million. The country was deeply divided between a tiny land-owning elite and the mass of landless poor. There was economic exploitation, social deprivation, and malnutrition in the countryside, on the coffee estates and sugar plantations. The whole system was kept in place through electoral fraud and wholesale repression. Killings, torture, disappearances, and political imprisonment were the routines of the military regime. The Church put itself alongside the poor in their struggle for basic rights and human dignity and suffered persecution too. Civil war was imminent.

Archbishop Romero had a deep and prayerful spiritual life and he loved the poor. He preached a message of social justice, non-violence, change, peace, and reconciliation. Week by week from the pulpit Romero confronted the human rights violations, the political violence, the corrupt system of justice, the iniquitous land tenure system, and the suffering of El Salvador's poor. He became known as the voice of the voiceless. His sermons were legendary. He sought to make the Word of God come alive in the lives of the poor. He teased all of the meaning out from the Gospel and applied it to contemporary El Salvador.

He pleaded to the right and the left for an end to the violence and killings. He urged dialogue. He demanded human rights for all. Bumper stickers appeared: 'Be a Patriot—Kill a Priest'. Six priests were killed before Romero. And on 24th March 1980 he was shot dead as he celebrated Mass in the hospital chapel where he lived.

His funeral took place in his Cathedral on Palm Sunday, thirty-eight years ago. But the Requiem Mass was never finished. Smoke bombs were thrown into the massed crowds of mourners and some forty people were killed in the ensuing stampede and shooting.

A twentieth-century martyr for the poor, Romero's ministry exemplified a faith that does justice, courageously and consistently. He evokes affection and admiration across the globe, within and beyond the Church. He stands now as a credible witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the twenty-first century. An ecumenical icon, Oscar Romero is an inspiration to lay Christians and clergy alike, who embrace the cause of the poor as their own—and through prayer and action, join in the quest for peace and justice today.

Since his death in 1980 prayers have been offered continuously for the recognition of Archbishop Romero as a martyr and saint of the Church. However, the cause for his canonisation advanced exceedingly slowly until the election of Pope Francis. He 'unblocked' the process, and in May 2015, at a magnificent ceremony in San Salvador, Oscar Romero was beatified as a martyr of the Church, killed out of 'hatred of the faith'.

A month ago, on October 14th 2018, at a ceremony in St Peter's Square in Rome, he was canonised as St Oscar Arnulfo Romero—a pastor of great holiness whose ministry was characterised by apostolic courage.

Romero's statue stands over the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey. It was unveiled during the 1998 Lambeth Conference, one of ten twentieth-century martyrs honoured in this way.

Oscar Romero's Feast Day is celebrated on March 24th, the anniversary of his martyrdom.

Archbishop Romero Trust
www.romerotrust.org.uk

Welcome to Westminster Abbey. Daily prayer has been offered in this place for over a thousand years, and your participation in today's service is warmly welcomed. At Choral Evensong most of the service is sung by the choir on our behalf. We participate through our presence and our listening, that the words and the music might become a prayer within us and lift us to contemplate God's beauty and glory.

The service always includes one or more psalms. These ancient prayers, taken from the Old Testament, reflect the full range of human emotions and experiences; from the depths of anger, resentment, and abandonment to the heights of ecstatic joy and praise. They were used by Jesus, and have always been at the heart of the Church's daily prayer.

The canticles Magnificat (*St Luke 1: 46–55*) and Nunc dimittis (*St Luke 2: 29–32*) reflect two responses to the Incarnation (God becoming fully human in Jesus Christ). Both speak of the fulfilment of God's promises, not just to 'Abraham and his seed', but also 'to be a light to lighten the Gentiles' (all nations). With their themes of fulfilment and completion, these texts have been given central place for many centuries in the Church's prayers for the evening and at the end of the day.

This booklet gives the order of service together with details of the music and readings. Please sing the hymn and say those parts of the service printed in bold type.

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.



Photography, filming, and sound recording are not allowed in the Abbey at any time. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

Large-print orders of service are available from the vergers.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey conducted by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist. The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, and before the service by Alexander Hamilton, Organ Scholar.

After the service a collection is taken for the One People Fund (for emergency relief and the promotion of peace and unity in any part of the world). If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme, please ask for a Gift Aid envelope.

All stand as the choir and clergy enter

The choir sings the Introit

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is :
blest is the man that trusteth in him.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Psalm 34: 8

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives the Welcome

All remain standing. Jenny Bond, Churches Together in England, reads

'This is what the Church wants: to bother your conscience, to provoke a crisis in the times we are living in. A Church that doesn't stir up a crisis, a gospel that doesn't make us uncomfortable, a word of God that—to put it crudely—doesn't cause an allergic rash, a word of God that doesn't touch on the specific sins of the society in which it is spoken, what kind of gospel is that? Very beautiful, pious concerns, that won't bother anyone, are how many want the sermons to be. And those preachers who, so as not to bother anyone and so as not to have conflicts and difficulties, do not shed light on the reality they are living in, lack the courage of Peter to say to the mob, which still has the blood-stained hands that killed Christ, "You killed him!" Although he would also lose his life because of this accusation, he proclaimed it. It is the courageous gospel; it is the good news that came to take away the sins of the world.'

St Oscar Romero, 16th April 1978

The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Sacrist, says a Sentence of Scripture

The officiant and choir sing the Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Richard Ayleward (1626–69)

All sit. The choir sings Psalm 39

I said, I will take heed to my ways :
that I offend not in my tongue.
I will keep my mouth as it were with a bridle :
while the ungodly is in my sight.
I held my tongue, and spake nothing :
I kept silence, yea, even from good words; but it was pain and grief to me.
My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire kindled :
and at the last I spake with my tongue;
Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days :
that I may be certified how long I have to live.
Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long :
and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;
and verily every man living is altogether vanity.
For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain :
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.
And now, Lord, what is my hope :
truly my hope is even in thee.
Deliver me from all mine offences :
and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.
I became dumb, and opened not my mouth :
for it was thy doing.
Take thy plague away from me :
I am even consumed by the means of thy heavy hand.
When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin,
thou makest his beauty to consume away,
like as it were a moth fretting a garment :
every man therefore is but vanity.
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling :
hold not thy peace at my tears.
For I am a stranger with thee :
and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.
O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength :
before I go hence, and be no more seen.

All stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

James Turlle (1802–82) Organist of Westminster Abbey 1831–82

All sit. The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon in Residence, reads the first Lesson Micah 6: 6–8

All stand. The choir sings Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Edmund Rubbra (1901–86) in A flat

All sit. Christine Allen, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Christian Aid, reads the second Lesson Colossians 3: 12–17

All stand. The choir sings Nunc dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Edmund Rubbra in A flat

All face east and say together the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit. The officiant and choir sing the Lesser Litany, the Lord's Prayer, and the Responses

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save The Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The officiant sings the Collects; of the day, for peace, and for aid against all perils

O Lord,
we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household
continually in thy true religion;
that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace
may evermore be defended by thy mighty power;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The officiant says the Prayers; for the Royal Family, and for the members of the Order of the Bath

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lady,
 Queen Elizabeth,
Philip Duke of Edinburgh,
Charles Prince of Wales,
and all the Royal Family:
endue them with thy Holy Spirit;
enrich them with thy heavenly grace;
prosper them with all happiness;
and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God save our Gracious Sovereign,
and all the Brotherhood of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath
living and departed.
Amen.

All sit. The choir sings the Anthem

I would like to make a special appeal to the men of the army. Brothers, each one of you is one of us. We are all the same people. Before any order to kill a man may give, God's law must prevail — 'Thou shalt not kill'.

For I hear the whispering of many —
 terror all around! —
as they scheme together against me,
 as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord;
 I say, 'You are my God.'

In the name of God, then, in the name of this suffering people whose laments rise up to heaven each day more tumultuously, I beg you, I beseech you, I order you, in the name of God: stop the repression!

A Special Appeal
James MacMillan (b 1959)
Commissioned for the service to mark the centenary of the birth
of St Oscar Romero in 2017 by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster

St Oscar Romero (1917–80)
and Psalm 31: 13–14

All kneel or remain seated for the Intercessions, at the end of which all say

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

All stand to sing the Hymn



God, you raise up true disciples,
teachers, martyrs deep in faith.
Like Romero, holy people,
giving witness to your grace.
Let us listen to their voices,
speaking of new ways to live.
By their words and by their actions,
we may know the love you give.

Yours the gospel that disturbs us,
words that must demand a choice;
speaking to a broken people,
hope for those who have no voice.
Stir in us your call to action,
rouse us from our apathy.
In the places lost to darkness,
we will shine for all to see.

Still our brothers, sisters suffer,
helpless and afraid to speak,
victims of oppressors using
power to dominate the weak.
When we see injustice near us,
we will cry out: 'This must cease!'
And by our example, turn this
world from vi'lence back to peace.

Brought together by your Spirit,
one in you, our risen Lord,
now you send us as your chosen,
hearts emboldened, hope restored.
Like Romero, we will serve you
and whatever may befall,
we'll devote ourselves to justice
and the common good of all.

Abbot's Leigh 185 NEH
Cyril Taylor (1907–92)

Chris Olding (b 1978)

The Sermon by the Dean

All stand to sing the Hymn



Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise,
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O generous love! that he who smote
in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man
for man should undergo;

and in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise,
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Gerontius 439i NEH
John Dykes (1823–76)

John Henry Newman (1801–90)

All remain standing for the Act of Rededication

Inspired by Saint Oscar Romero
who in holiness and with apostolic courage
followed in the way of Christ,
let us commit ourselves to living faithfully and justly.

Mindful of the needs of all our brothers and sisters
we will give voice to the voiceless.

Discerning the signs of our times
we will stand up for the oppressed.

Working together as God's beloved children
we will work for the good of all creation.

The Dean pronounces the Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Music after the service

Final *from* Symphonie III

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

The following organisations have been particularly involved in supporting this service

Archbishop Romero Trust
Churches Together in England
CAFOD
Christian Aid

18th November SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.00 am **Matins***

11.15 am **Sung Eucharist***

Preacher The Reverend Anthony Ball *Canon Steward and Almoner*

3.00 pm **Evensong***

Preacher The Reverend Jane Sinclair *Canon in Residence*

5.45 pm **Organ Recital**

Matthew Jorysz *Assistant Organist*

6.30 pm **Evening Service**

conducted by The Reverend Dominic Fenton *Priest Vicar*

*Services marked * are sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey.*

Details of all Abbey services are available at the Abbey website:

www.westminster-abbey.org

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Enquiries are welcomed at any time. If you have a son who enjoys singing, and would like further details of the world-renowned Abbey Choir and its unique choir school, please visit www.abbeychoirschool.org.

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*Terms and conditions apply.