

# Westminster Abbey



## Evensong

commemorating the centenary  
of the birth of  
Blessed Oscar Romero

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017  
3.00 pm





*Blessed Oscar Romero (1917–80)*

*courtesy and copyright of Carlos Reyes-Manzo/Andes Press Agency*

## **BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO (1917–80)**

Oscar Romero was born 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-violent, 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 out all the meaning 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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-seven 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.

Romero is on the road to sainthood. Yet the cause for his canonisation had 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'.

2017 marks the centenary of Blessed Oscar Romero's birth which is being commemorated in this service of Evensong, celebrating 'the hope that inspires Christians'. It is anticipated that the examination of Romero's cause will be completed during the coming year, with every expectation that his canonisation will follow soon afterwards.

The relic of Archbishop Romero, a piece of the blood-stained alb in which he was martyred, is displayed on the High Altar in a reliquary designed by the Salvadoran artist Fernando Llort.

*Archbishop Romero Trust*  
[www.romerotrust.org.uk](http://www.romerotrust.org.uk)

## EVENSONG

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 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 hymns 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.

*During the final hymn a collection will be taken for The Archbishop Romero Trust (for the work of the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital in San Salvador). If you are a UK tax-payer and would like to take advantage of the Gift Aid scheme, please ask for a Gift Aid envelope.*

*Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (International) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 1040271 and MRL no 1040288. Scripture Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version.*

*The Choir of Westminster Abbey is conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.*

*The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.*

*This service is being recorded by BBC Radio 3 for future transmission.*

*The clip of the homily of Blessed Oscar Romero was made available with technical assistance from the Things Unseen podcast. [www.thingsunseen.co.uk](http://www.thingsunseen.co.uk)*

*Before the service, Benjamin Cunningham, Organ Scholar, plays:*

Chorale Prelude on 'Martyrdom' *Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*

Psalm Prelude Set 1 no 1 'Lo, the poor crieth' *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Master Tallis's Testament *Herbert Howells*

Pari intervallo *Arvo Pärt (b 1935)*

*HE The Ambassador of El Salvador is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All remain seated.*

*The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Dr Paul Knapman DL, representing Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All remain seated.*

*The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All stand.*

*All remain standing as the choir enters. The choir sings*

## THE INTROIT

*during which a wreath is placed beneath the statue of  
Blessed Oscar Romero on the West Front of the Abbey Church.*

**B**LESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

*John Joubert (b 1927)*

*St Matthew 5: 3–12 (The Beatitudes)*

*The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

**A**LMIGHTY God,  
by whose grace and power thy holy martyr Oscar Romero  
triumphed over suffering and was faithful unto death:  
strengthen us with thy grace,  
that we may endure reproach and persecution  
and faithfully bear witness to the name of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*All sing*

THE HYMN

*during which the Procession moves to places in Quire and the Sacrarium*



**G**OD, 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 violence 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)*  
*Commissioned by The Archbishop Romero Trust*  
*to mark the centenary of the birth of Blessed Oscar Romero*

*The Dean gives*

## THE WELCOME

*All remain standing for*

### AN EXTRACT FROM A HOMILY

*given by Archbishop Oscar Romero at Mass on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1980*  
*in the Basilica del Sagrado Corazón, San Salvador*

*I* WOULD like to make an appeal especially to the men of the army, and concretely to the National Guard, the police, and the troops. Brothers, you are part of our own people. You are killing your own campesino (brothers and sisters). And against any order a man may give to kill, God's law must prevail: Thou shalt not kill. No soldier is obliged to obey an order against the law of God... The Church defends the rights of God, the law of God, and the dignity of the human person and therefore cannot remain silent in the face of such great abominations... In the name of God, then, and in the name of this suffering people, whose laments rise up each day more tumultuously towards heaven, I beg you, I beseech you, I order you in the name of God: stop the repression.

*The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, and the 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.

*Thomas Morley (c 1557–1602)*

*All sit. The choir sings*

PSALMS 53 and 54

**T**HE foolish body hath said in his heart : There is no God.  
Corrupt are they, and become abominable in their wickedness : there  
is none that doeth good.

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men : to see if there  
were any, that would understand, and seek after God.

But they are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become  
abominable : there is also none that doeth good, no not one.

Are not they without understanding that work wickedness : eating up my  
people as if they would eat bread? They have not called upon God.

They were afraid where no fear was : for God hath broken the bones of him  
that besieged thee; thou hast put them to confusion, because God hath  
despised them.

O that the salvation were given unto Israel out of Sion : O that the Lord  
would deliver his people out of captivity!

Then should Jacob rejoice : and Israel should be right glad.

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.

**S**AVE me, O God, for thy name's sake : and avenge me in thy strength.  
Hear my prayer, O God : and hearken unto the words of my mouth.  
For strangers are risen up against me : and tyrants, which have not God  
before their eyes, seek after my soul.  
Behold, God is my helper : the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.  
An offering of a free heart will I give thee, and praise thy name, O Lord :  
because it is so comfortable.  
For he hath delivered me out of all my trouble : and mine eye hath seen his  
desire upon mine enemies.

*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.

*John Goss (1800–80) and Charles Naylor (1838–97)*

*All sit. Loretta Minghella OBE, Chief Executive, Christian Aid, reads*

#### THE FIRST LESSON

**T**HE spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,  
    foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;  
but you shall be called priests of the Lord,  
    you shall be named ministers of our God;  
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,  
    and in their riches you shall glory.  
Because their shame was double,  
    and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot,  
therefore they shall possess a double portion;  
    everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice,  
    I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
    and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
    and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
    that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

*Isaiah 61: 1–9*

*All stand. The choir sings*

## MAGNIFICAT

*during which the Dean censes the High Altar  
and the Relic of Blessed Oscar Romero*

**M**AGNIFICAT anima mea Dominum,  
et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo Salutari meo;  
quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.  
    Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes;  
quia fecit mihi Magna qui potens est,  
    et sanctum nomen eius.  
Et misericordia eius, a progenie in progenies  
    timentibus eum.  
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
    dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.  
Deposuit potentes de sede  
    et exaltavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.  
Suscepit Israel puerum suum,  
recordatus misericordiae suae.  
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto;  
sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is on those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be forever. Amen.*

Magnificat primi toni à 4  
Tomás Luis de Victoria (c 1548–1611)

*All sit. Julie Etchingam, broadcaster and CAFOD Ambassador, reads*

## THE SECOND LESSON

**L**ISTEN, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

*St James 2: 5–13*

*All stand. The choir sings*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

**N**UNC dimittis servum tuum Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum in pace;  
quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum,  
quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum,  
lumen ad revelationem Gentium  
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto;  
sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be forever. Amen.*

Nunc dimittis tertii toni  
*Tomás Luis de Victoria*

*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 Precentor and choir sing*

THE LESSER LITANY

THE Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

*All kneel or sit.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE RESPONSES

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 COLLECTS

*of the Day, for Peace, and for Aid against all perils*

**K**EEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy: and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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.

**L**IGHTEN 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 PRAYERS

*for the Royal Family, and for the Members of the Order of the Bath*

**A**LMIGHTY 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.**

**G**OD 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 this service by*  
*the Dean and Chapter of Westminster*

*Blessed Oscar Romero*  
*and Psalm 31: 13–14*

#### THE SERMON

*by*

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable  
The Lord Williams of Oystermouth

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

*during which the collection will be taken for The Archbishop Romero Trust (for the work of the Divine Providence Cancer Hospital in San Salvador). If you are a UK tax-payer please take advantage of the Gift Aid envelopes provided*



**P**RAISE 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 wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against their foe,  
should strive and should prevail;

and that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

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)*

*Blessed John Henry Newman (1801–90)*

*The Precentor introduces*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

*All kneel or sit.*

**F**OR all God's children, especially the oppressed, marginalised, and forgotten; and for those inspired by Blessed Oscar Romero to seek justice, mercy, and peace.

*His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, says:*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast created men and women in thine own image: grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among people and nations, to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The Precentor says:*

**F**OR our brothers and sisters who claim the faith of Christ crucified amidst the conflicts of faiths and peoples, and for those whose reputations and lives have been imperilled for the truth's sake.

*The Cardinal Archbishop says:*

**B**E merciful, O Father of all mercies, to thy Church universal dispersed throughout the world, that all thy faithful people may have grace to confess thy holy name; and especially be merciful to such as are under persecution for their testimony and their profession of the gospel; that as they stand fast for thy holy Word, so they may be upheld by it; through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Precentor says:*

**T**HAT, in the words of Romero, we may come with the whole Church to share in the hope that inspires Christian men and women everywhere.

*The Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, says:*

**O**GOD, who never forsakest those that hope in thee: grant that we may ever keep that hope which thou hast given us as an anchor of our souls, to preserve us sure and steadfast, unshaken and secure in all the storms of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Precentor concludes:*

**L**ET us commend ourselves, one another, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God, the holy and undivided Trinity, as we say together,

**T**HE 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. The congregation raises their Salvadoran crosses.*

*The Dean leads*

## THE ACT OF REDEDICATION

**I**NSPIRED by Blessed Oscar Romero who, through his words and actions, followed in the way of Christ, let us recommit 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

**G**O 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Music after the service:*

Tocatta *from* Symphonie II

*Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)*

*The following organisations have been particularly involved in supporting this service:*

Archbishop Romero Trust  
Churches Together in England  
CAFOD  
Christian Aid

*The following organisations were also represented at this service:*

National Justice and Peace Network  
Church Action on Poverty  
Caritas Social Action Network  
Housing Justice  
Pax Christi  
Tear Fund  
Missio  
Operation Noah  
Jesuit Missions  
Joint Public Issues Team  
Aid to the Church in Need