Romero cross liturgy

We invite you to use this liturgy to pray with us and with the people of El Salvador with whom CAFOD works.

Prayer focus:
- Map of the world, highlighting El Salvador
- Large candle, e.g. CAFOD candle
  (for you could use our virtual candle: cafod.org.uk/virtualcandle)
- Romero cross
- Romero poster
- Large sheet of paper cut into wide cross, with a figure of Jesus drawn onto it.

Introduction:
In the name of the Father...

Leader: Today we join in prayer with the people of El Salvador.

(Tell the story of Romero in your own words, using information from the timeline, use the primary or secondary Romero PowerPoints or the short film on our website. You may wish to include a section from one of Romero's sermons.)

Symbolic action:
(I possible, beforehand give people time to draw or paint figures and symbols to add to the cross that represent people in our global community who live in poverty)

Leader: We are used to seeing the figure of Christ alone on the cross. But in El Salvador there is a tradition of painting the local community and landscape on the cross. It is a sign that Jesus takes our joys and pains with him as he dies and rises again.

Today we are inspired by Romero's words: “It is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing. We bring to Jesus those people whose needs. During the music, you are invited to think about carefully the words of Romero. Come up to the cross and write on it one thing you can do to help people have the basic things they need to be able to live as God wants.

Prayer:
- Read out the prayer, the musical organ plays in the background.
- The congregation is invited to stand.
- Now, let us ask our Lord to protect his people in El Salvador.

Leader: Let us pray:

Our Father...

Leader: We pray for the people of El Salvador and all the people of God that... As we pray, the congregational song is played: ‘The full life you dream of’, based on the words of Pope Francis.

Leader: Today we ask God to protect the people of El Salvador and all the people of God.

Leader: Let us join in prayer:

Lord, hear us.
We pray for all those who have lost family and friends.

Leader: We pray for all those who have lost family and friends.

Leader: We now have a special prayer:

Leader: We present this prayer to you, in the name of God, stop the repression!

Rosa Barrios, El Salvador

Leader: We bring this prayer to you, in the name of God, stop the repression!

Romero's life story

Romerito Romero was born into a poor family of ten children in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. He started to study to become an agricultural engineer, but when he returned as a young man to join his family and his church, he was a revolutionary and joined the resistance against the military regime then ruling the country.

Romero became Archbishop of El Salvador in 1977. Some rich people were unhappy because he thought they should use their riches to help the poor. He also organised political classes and working with others in his diocese to provide legal help for the poor.

The Archbishop Romero Trust website has the full text of Romero’s homilies. Everyone can listen to the voices that don't get heard?'

Quotations from Romero

Pray…

cafod.org.uk/pray

Volunteer…

 cafod.org.uk/volunteer

ADULTS

cafod.org.uk/romero

We hope you find the following resources useful for your personal prayer and spiritual development or for use in parish groups:
- For use in parish groups:

  The front and reverse of this poster as a downloadable PDF

  Short film telling the story of Romero

  PowerPoint telling the story of Romero, suitable for assemblies

  El Salvador RE pack for KS2

  El Salvador Geography pack, including films, posters, photo cards and activities

  ‘Aspire to more’ liturgy for Year 6 school leavers

CHILDREN

cafod.org.uk/primaryromero

Our resources for children include:
- TheFront and reverse of this poster as a downloadable PDF
- PowerPoint telling the story of Romero, suitable for assemblies
- El Salvador RE pack for KS2
- El Salvador Geography pack, including films, posters, photo cards and activities
- ‘Aspire to more’ liturgy for Year 6 school leavers

YOUNG PEOPLE

cafod.org.uk/secondaryromero

Our resources for young people include:
- The Front and reverse of this poster as a downloadable PDF
- Short film telling the story of Romero
- PowerPoint telling the story of Romero, suitable for assemblies
- Romero cross reflexive activity, similar to that in the liturgy
- Film of Isabel talking about the traditional crosses of El Salvador
- ‘Aspire to more’ transition liturgy for Y7 pupils entering a new school
- Aspire postcards (free) and ideas for how these can be used

CAFOD's work with Romero

Our work in El Salvador began in the 1970s when a military-dominated government was using violence to crush demands for social change.

As part of the Global Church Network, led in El Salvador by Archbishop Romero, we were able to reach thousands of families who fled their homes into refugee camps or protest in Church properties. We also supported Romero's Legal Aid Office, which provided vital support to poor and marginalized people arrested, tortured and killed by the army and police.

Romero stood alongside his people as they struggled against injustice. He is remembered for his courage, his faith and, above all, his great love for the poor. Romero still inspires CAFOD today – our London office is named 'Romero House' – and we are proud to have worked with him.

Today El Salvador is a more democratic country but it is still riven by poverty and violence. CAFOD continues to support organisations and people around the world who, like Romero, know the needs of the local people because they live and work alongside them.

CAFOD works in the same way around the world. Together we bring hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice.

CAFOD in El Salvador today

We focus on four key areas:
- Helping farming families improve their crops, and nurture the environment in the face of climate change.
- Supporting mother and child health work in rural communities.
- Nurturing peace and justice, providing legal aid, counselling and peacebuilding workshops.
- Helping women know their rights, grow in self-esteem and earn an income.

Pope Francis approved a miracle which was attributed to Oscar Romero. This meant he could now be canonised. The canonisation date was 14 October.