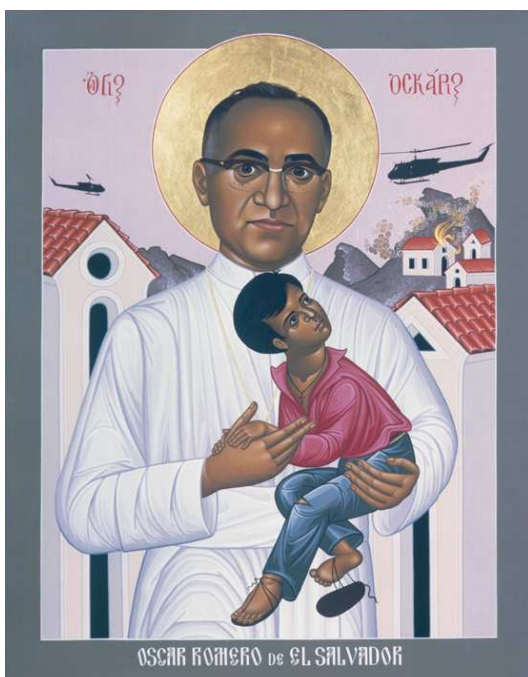


MARY

SYMBOL OF THE OPPRESSED

Mary is the symbol of the people that suffer oppression, injustice, because she represents the serene sorrow that waits for the Resurrection. She is Christian pain, the pain of the Church that is not in agreement with the present injustice; but with no resentment, waiting for the moment when the Resurrected One will return to give us the awaited redemption.

- Archbishop Oscar Romero



Oscar Romero was born in 1917 in El Salvador. At age 13, after only a very basic state education, Romero entered a Jesuit seminary and began to study Theology. He was ordained Priest in 1942, and became Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977.

He was an outspoken critic of the poverty, social injustice and human rights abuses which abounded in El Salvador.

On this day in 1980, Romero was Celebrating Mass in a small hospital chapel when a right wing paramilitary death squad burst in. As Romero elevated the Host, he was shot through the heart and died instantly, his blood spilling on the altar.

The cause for his Canonisation was begun in 1990, and the Roman Catholic Church officially recognises him as a Servant of God. His image appears on the West Wall of Westminster Abbey amongst the 20th Century Martyrs. The people of Latin America simply know him as "Saint Romero."