

Catholic People

Pick up your **FREE** copy today



Sensory Garden Springs To Life At The Cornerstone

Page 3



Home For A Syrian Refugee Family

Page 6



Representatives from all the parishes attended the Mass in Thanksgiving for the Conclusion of the Centenary

Glorious Thanksgiving

It was a fitting conclusion to the end of our Centenary Year with two representatives from every parish in the Archdiocese attending the Thanksgiving Mass at St David's Metropolitan Cathedral.

The scene was set with the Processional Hymn Praise to the Holiest in the height, referred to by Archbishop George as the most wonderful and moving work by Cardinal John Henry Newman.

The congregation responded with enthusiasm, joining the Cathedral Choir, conducted by Dominic Neville, and creating a wonderful musical sound which threatened to take the roof off the cathedral!

The Centenary Year has been full of joyful celebrations, including the opening of the Cornerstone, referred to by Archbishop George in his Homily as being a great contribution to the life not only of the Archdiocese, but of Cardiff.

More photographs of the Centenary Thanksgiving Mass will appear in the March edition of *Catholic People*

St Johns



ARCHBISHOP
GEORGE'S
ENGAGEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2017



Wednesday 1	Meeting of Anglican and Catholic Bishops Birmingham
Thursday 2	Candlemas Day Celebration
Friday 3	Meetings, Archbishop's House
Monday 6	Departs for Vox Clara Meeting, Rome
Friday 10	Returns from Vox Clara meeting, Rome
Sunday 12	Departs for ICEL Meeting, Washington
Saturday 18	Returns from ICEL meeting, Washington
Monday 20	School Visit, Cardiff
Tuesday 21	Meeting of Liturgy Department, London
Thursday 23	Day of Recollection
Monday 27	Poor Clares Monastery, Much Birch Clergy Retirement Fund Meeting PRC
Tuesday 28	St. David's Day Celebration, Cardiff

Platinum pupils!



Congratulations to the children and staff at St Philip Evans School, pictured here, on their recent success in being awarded the prestigious Eco Platinum Award. The children place great emphasis on caring for the environment both locally and in the wider world, they appreciate their responsibility as global citizens to look after our planet and all of its inhabitants including animals and reptiles. The Assessors for the award were particularly impressed with the work that the school had undertaken on Pope Francis encyclical Laudato Si.

Obituary

Reverend Canon John O'Regan

John O'Regan studied at St Patrick's College, Carlow in Ireland.

The annual seminary reports for 1949, 1950 and 1951 from the President of St Patrick's College, Carlow noted that "John O'Regan is a student of outstanding ability, of excellent character and promises in every way to be a most suitable candidate for the priesthood."

He was ordained on 29th March 1952 at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Bantry for the Archdiocese of Cardiff. Fr. O'Regan served in the parishes of Sacred Heart, Murrison upon his arrival to the Archdiocese and then to St David's Cathedral (1953); St Alban's, Pontypool (1954); Our Lady of the Angels, Cwmbran (1956); Our Lady of Margam, Port Talbot (1957) and finally St Illtyd's, Dowlais (1960). He was parish priest of the parishes of St John's, Rhymney (1963); St Illtyd's, Swansea (1968) and finally St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Ynysir (1973-2015).

In 1989 the parish church burnt down and a fine new church was built to replace it in 1993. In 1992 he was created an Honorary Canon of St. David's Cathedral by Archbishop Ward. Canon O'Regan was a shy and private man whose abiding sense of priestly service was marked by dedication to his parishioners and single minded devotion to the Mass and sacraments. His ministry in the Confessional to priests and the faithful in difficult situations is known to many.

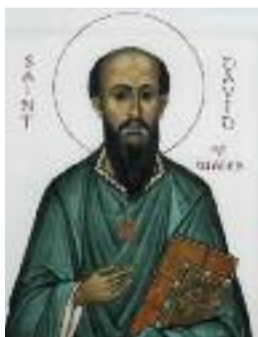
The church windows at St Mary Magdalene's were paid for out of the donations given to the Canon for his Golden Jubilee. On the occasion of his



Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Archbishop Stack said of Canon O'Regan "The people admire and respect your gentle and kindly presence in their midst. They give thanks to God for your dedicated service to God and to the Church over these sixty years." Not many people knew that the Canon was passionate about Formula One, enjoying the spectacle of it on his holidays and days off. For his 80th Birthday he accepted the present of driving a Ferrari at Castle Combe race track in Wiltshire.

Canon O'Regan will be remembered with much affection by the people of the parishes where he served during his 64 years as a priest; especially St. Mary Magdalene in Ynysir with Tonyrefail where he served faithfully for 42 years before his retirement in the care of the Sisters of Nazareth at Nazareth House, Cardiff and their nursing staff. The Canon died very peacefully at the age of 88 years on 28th December 2016 having asked to receive Viaticum. He was a priest for 64 years.

A Requiem Mass was held for Canon O'Regan on January 11 at St David's Cathedral.



St David's Day – Dydd Gyl Dewi 2017

This year the Church is celebrating St David's Day on February 28th, because March 1st is Ash Wednesday.

Mass for the feast of St David will be celebrated in Welsh at St Teilo's Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 1AD at 7pm. A warm welcome is extended to all to celebrate our national feast day in the language of St David himself and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

The homily will be preached in English and bilingual booklets will be available.

Croeso cynnes i bawb – dewch i ddathlu Dydd Gyl ein nawddsant yn y brifddinas.

ARCHDIOCESAN DIARY OF EVENTS

Archesgobaeth Caerdydd

BEL – Belmont Abbey – The Retreats Secretary - email: retreats@belmontabbey.org.uk or tel: 07799 811 646. All retreats begin with Vespers at 6.00 pm – check-in at Hedley Lodge from mid afternoon

LL – Ty Croeso Centre, Llantarnam Abbey, Cwmbran tel: 01633 867317

PRC – Pastoral Resources Centre, 910 Newport Road, Rumney, Cardiff tel: 029 20360044

St.P – St Peter's Church, St Peter's Street, Cardiff CF24 3BA

Friday-Sunday 10-12 February Retreat Workshop "Growing Strong in your innermost self." Belmont Abbey.

Tuesday 28 February Mass in Welsh to celebrate Feast of St David. St Teilo's Church, Whitchurch Cardiff 7pm

To list Archdiocesan and Deanery Events in this Diary contact: Pastoral Resources Centre, 910 Newport Road, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 4LL Tel: (029) 2036 5963 Fax (029) 2079 3172 email: publications@rcadc.org



COLES
Funeral Directors

Serving people with respect & professionalism

Formerly Rumney Funeral Home

Our name has changed



New Name



Same Family



Same Award winning, Professional Service

T:029 2079 7516

W:colesfuneraldirectors.co.uk

792 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF3 4FH

SENSORY GARDEN SPRINGS TO LIFE AT THE CORNERSTONE



*Kiss of the sun
for pardon,*

*Song of the
birds for mirth.*

*You're closer
to God in a
garden*

*Than anywhere
else on earth.*

**(Dorothy F.
Gurney)**

A keen gardener himself, Prince Charles visited the Sensory Garden at the conclusion of his visit to officially open 'The Cornerstone' on 16 December last.

Whilst not claiming to compete in any way with his magnificent gardens at Highgrove House, there is no doubt that the Sensory Garden in Charles will do a great deal to enhance the Cathedral Quarter, including St. David's and the former Ebeneser Chapel.

The Garden has been designed with particular care, providing an oasis for blind and partially sighted people. The advice of the National Institute for the Blind has been invaluable in its creation.

The scent of many herbs and fragrant plants and flowers will give easy access to this place of beauty and tranquillity. The walkway with braille guidance has already been hailed as extremely user friendly. It leads to a water feature which is made from pipes of a church organ (pictured here), conveying sound and touch in addition to the smell of the plants.

Hundreds of bulbs have been planted in addition to plants and shrubs, so as the spring and summer arrive there will be a cascade of colour to add to the maturing garden.

It is no accident that the Bible begins in a garden – the Garden of Eden. The conclusion of St. John's gospel portrays the encounter between Mary of Magdala and the risen Jesus in a garden – the garden of the Resurrection. We read "...supposing him to be the gardener".

No accident, either, that the illustration on the cover of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

shows the Shepherd of Hermas sitting beneath a tree. This is the model of so many depictions of Jesus the Good Shepherd and is taken up in the beautiful words of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose".

The garden will be open to the general public as a place of tranquillity and peace. In enjoying this beautiful space, perhaps they will reflect on the poem "Rosa Mystica" by Gerard Manley Hopkins:

*Is Mary that Rose then? Mary the tree?
But the Blossom, the Blossom there,
who can it be?*

Who can her rose be? It could be but One:

Christ Jesus, our Lord, her God and her son.

In the garden of God, in the daylight divine

Shew me thy son, Mother, Mother of mine.

(Donations may be made to help the completion of the Sensory Garden and in memory of loved ones who have died. Cheques should be made payable to "The Archdiocese of Cardiff" and the envelope marked "Sensory Garden").



A plea from the Archbishop

We ask Catholic People readers to look at and respond to Archbishop George's plea on page 6 of this edition.

He is appealing to us for donations to help displaced Syrian refugees find a home and welcome in our Archdiocese where some of our members are already working with the UK government and local authorities to do just that.

The Syrian Refugee Project, says Archbishop George, is aimed at providing "proper legal, pastoral, emotional, educational and financial support" to Syrian refugees and also to provide family stability and security for those fleeing the horrors of a five-year civil war in their country where an estimated 400,000 people have been killed and millions displaced.

Pope Francis has encouraged us to "overcome indifference" over what is going on in Syria and has encouraged parishes and communities to take initiatives to help, such as the Syrian Refugee Project highlighted here by Archbishop George.

Please respond to the Archbishop's appeal.

SPUC



THANK YOU

Thank you to our Priests and Parishioners who responded to our White Flower Appeal in 2017

If there was no Appeal at your Parish this year, particularly if you are a Member or Supporter, please consider sending a donation made payable to 'SPUC' at 79 Splott Road, Cardiff CF24 2BX

Tel: 029 20 400146

THANK YOU

PAUL BOTTO,
SPUC DIOCESAN ORGANISER

A point to ponder

In a poor rural parish the priest addressed his flock as follows: "My dear friends in Christ: I have some good news for you and some bad news as well. The good news is that we have enough money to pay for the restoration of this church. The bad news is that it is still in your wallets."

Your Catholic People...

Editorial Dr James Campbell - Editor, Pastoral Resources Centre, 910 Newport Road, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 4LL

Tel: (029) 20365963 Fax: (029) 2036 7192 Email: publications@rcadc.org

Articles to be received by 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month. Please use Microsoft Word for all documents.

Advertising Tel: 0151 709 7567

Designed & Produced Mersey Mirror, 36 Henry Street, Liverpool L1 5BS.
Tel: 0151 709 7567 Fax: 0151 707 1678 Email: post@merseymirror.com

A great Christmas finale to o

In last month's edition we printed two pictures of the Prince of Wales opening the Cornerstone. It was just so joyful and momentous an occasion that we are pleased to print two more pages of pics!

Photographs by Chas Breton



ur wonderful Centenary Year



Green Willow Funerals

Family Centred Funeral Services

For caring, sensitive bespoke funeral arrangements at a time of need.

Tel 02920 52 42 00

We welcome no-obligation enquiries and cater for 'pre-need' funeral plans which help:

-  **Limit costs**
-  **Record your wishes**
-  **Relieve pressure on family and loved ones**



Green Willow donates all profit to charity

www.greenwillowfunerals.com



HOME FOR A SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CARDIFF

By Archbishop George Stack

Although the traumatic suffering of the people of Syria and the surrounding area has been removed from our TV screens because of other major world events, hundreds of thousands of displaced families are still enduring indescribable hardships in that war torn region.

We may feel threatened in this country for a few days by freezing temperatures and thundersnow but can retreat to secure and warm homes. People in refugee camps, deprived of the most basic human needs, have no such luxury. We can hardly conceive of the sub zero temperatures they have to endure as well as so many other deprivations.

I am grateful to a number of people in the Diocese who are working with the U.K government and the local authorities to provide a home for at least one refugee family in our midst.

There are a number of vacant presbyteries which have been examined as suitable for such accommodation and negotiations are in hand to make one available to a Syrian refugee family in great need. Proper legal, pastoral, emotional, educational and financial support will also be put in place to ensure the stability and security of the family.

Language tuition, toys, clothes, furniture and other necessities will also be required in due time.

There have already been generous responses to this initiative. I propose that this year's Lenten Alms and proceeds from Lenten lunches should be allocated to our Syrian Refugee Family Project. Other suggestions are welcome.

A number of people have asked for a copy of the poem I used in my Christmas reflection. It is called 'Refugee' by Matthew Guite.

*We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.*

*For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.*

*Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.*

*But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.*

**(Donations for the Syrian Refugee Family project may be sent to:
Archbishop's House 41-43 Cathedral Road Cardiff CF11 9HD)**



Syrian families trapped in snow-covered mountains...they need to be helped to escape

MY BITTER EXPERIENCES OF A REFUGEE CRISIS

By Dr James Campbell

It was in September 1993 and I was then heading the Army's media teams, based in HQ Land Command, in Wilton, Salisbury.

Due to a sudden need for a senior media spokesman attract to British forces in Bosnia and Croatia, part of the United Nation Protecting Force (UNPROFOR) in the civil war-torn Former Republic of Yugoslavia, I was hurriedly dispatched to the civil war-zone to head a team of 26 civil and military personnel. Although working as a civilian for the Ministry of Defence, I had been a Territorial Army soldier for 15 years and had been dispatched to crisis points before. Yugoslavia had fallen apart after the death of the communist dictator Marshal Tito and Croats were fighting Serbs with Bosnians in the middle of the conflict. It was also a war of religions as well as ethic identity - Serbs were Orthodox, Croats were Catholic and Bosnians were Muslim. From living mainly peaceably together for hundreds of years under the Ottoman Empire and then, after German occupation during the Second World War under Tito the country fell apart after his death. UNPROFOR consisted of forces from several nations, including the British. The job was to help handle and care for the streams of refugees fleeing from the civil strife, aiding the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) by providing transport to give them safe conduct out of the war zones, clothe and feed them and bring them to safety. It was not always possible as massacres were occurring at all times ... you will remember the Serb atrocity at Srebrenica where the Bosnian Serb army massacred more than 8,000 Muslim



men and boys.

I was in Gorazde, a Muslim safe area in the middle of Serbian-occupied territory...only safe due to British and Ukrainian forces under the UN banner ensuring the safety of the inhabitants. Power had been cut off and what was a rich resort was reduced to a wood-horning economy. The Serbs had blocked all ways into the town and food was scarce. Limited power was created by a makeshift hydro system, seen in the picture here.

I saw children walking in the snow at a temperature 25 degrees below zero, with no shoes and threadbare clothes. People were gaunt faced and thin and

suffering form many diseases due to the lack of medical supplies. Rickets was seen in children for the first time in several generations.

Our troops were forced to use high mountain passes, prepared by our Royal Engineers to get into the town, but even then the Serbs turned back supplies. We could not heat our accommodation nor had we hot water.

But our discomforts were nothing compared to the suffering of the Gorazde townspeople, and especially their children. At least our forces kept them alive and away from massacring Serb forces.

My experiences in Croatia and Bosnia make me whole-heartedly support the Archbishop's words on this page. If we cannot help the Syrians in their own country, a country which contains many Christians as well as Muslims, then we must help those who have escaped to build a new life in the safety of the UK.

I urge readers to respond to the Archbishop's plea for donations and any other help they can offer.

Imagine if the children I have talked about here were your children?

“Urgent action” prayer intention of Pope Francis

The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, known for many years as the Apostleship of Prayer, continues to promote the pre-planned Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis. He has entrusted the Jesuits with the task of sharing one pre-planned Prayer Intention each month throughout 2017.

The latest innovation is that, as from Sunday 8th January, there will be a second, “urgent action” intention each month. The Pope will announce it each month at the Sunday Angelus, with the hope that all the faithful will join in prayer for his urgent concerns and challenges, and with the desire that these intentions will lead to rapid action in response.

Pope Francis announced his first “urgent action” intention on Sunday 8th January for homeless people, especially during the cold winter weather. “During these very cold days, I think of and I invite you to think of all the people who live on the streets, affected by the cold and many times by indifference,” he said.

“Unfortunately some didn’t make it. Let us pray for them, and let us ask the Lord to warm our hearts so as to be able to help them”.

The idea is that through praying for the intentions our hearts are opened up to the possibility of real, concrete charity and mercy; or, in a word,

action. Pope Francis, informing his Network about these changes at the turn of the year, made it clear that he sees these urgent intentions as a way of “breaking us out of the culture of indifference”.

The Monthly Intention for January 2017, already proposed by the Prayer Network here, was for Christian unity: “that all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.”

Speaking in Rome, the International Director of the Pope’s Prayer Network, Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ, reflected that the Pope’s urgent intention is a way of confronting that “culture of indifference” by drawing attention and prayer to situations that are “more concrete, precise, current (and) related to actual circumstances.” In London, the UK National Director, Fr David Stewart SJ, echoed this thought, noting that “It’s got to come from the heart; just one of the reasons why the Apostleship of Prayer has always included a daily offering prayer to Christ’s heart. These intentions, inspired by the great concerns of our time, are what is in the Pope’s heart, in his own prayer, in which he invites us all to join him”.

Each month the Prayer Network will

continue to promote these intentions for Britain, a monthly reflection and a few suggestions for prayer appear each month on

www.popesglobalprayer.net. See also the new online App, including these intentions and daily offering prayers that change each day on <http://www.jesuit.org.uk/click-pray-new-app-pray-pope-francis>. Other resources, prayer-cards, a monthly calendar and Living Prayer booklets, can be found on <http://www.jesuit.org.uk/pray-pope-throughout-2017>

Background information: The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network is the new name in 2017 for the Apostleship of Prayer. It’s an international apostolic service entrusted by the Holy See to the Jesuits. It has at its heart the devotion to the Heart of Christ, a heart open to all the concerns that face humanity; devotion to the Sacred Heart first inspired the Apostleship of Prayer. Now, there is even more emphasis on being the personal prayer network of the Holy Father. Pope Francis has taken a keen personal interest in the Network/AoP. Praying for the Holy Father’s intentions helps us to look outside of ourselves and open our hearts – in other words, to become apostolic, to become those “Missionary Disciples” that Pope Francis always encourages us to be.

YOUNG VINCENTIANS

The end of 2016 saw the Vincentian family growing in the Archdiocese as several schools set up Mini Vinnie groups.

Following an introduction to Vincentian Youth Groups by the newly appointed Young Vincentian Development Officer at the Annual Mass for School and College Staff in September (appropriately on the feast of St Vincent de Paul) many schools registered an interest in engaging in the work of SVP.

Since then pupils at St Mary’s Canton, St Mary’s Brynmawr, St Cuthberts and St John Lloyd have been commissioned and join existing Mini Vinnies in St Joseph’s Penarth and Our Lady and St Michaels Abergavenny. At least 4 more schools are due to be commissioned this term and so the Vincentian family grows.

In addition to our thriving Mini Vinnie Groups we have Youth SVP in St Richard Gwyn and St Iltyds high schools as well as in St Mary’s Dinas Powys Parish.

Young Vincentian Groups are available for all ages from 7 to 33 7-11 years. Mini Vinnies. (Schools only)

11-14 years. Youth SVP.

(Schools or Parishes)

14-18 years. B-Attitude.

(Schools or Parishes)

18-33 years SVP 1833

If you would like more information about setting up a Vincentian Youth Group in your school or Parish please do not hesitate to contact Rosalind Trigg Young Vincentian Development Officer by email.

rosalindtrigg@hotmail.com

Young Vincentians - a growing group commissioned in the Archdiocese



Pupils at St Cuthbert’s make their Mini Vinnie

A tribute to our historic Irish community!

Readers of Catholic People may already be aware of the Newtown Association. It was set up some twenty years ago to establish a permanent memorial to the Irish community brought here during the Great Famine to complete Cardiff docks. You will find further information on our website: www.newtown-cardiff.org.uk

For the past 11 years we have celebrated St Patrick’s Day with a small ceremony at the memorial garden in Tyndall Street, followed by Mass and a celebratory lunch at St Peter’s. This year however is likely to be our ‘swansong’ so we have decided to arrange for a candle-lit procession from the garden - taking the route many of our ancestors would have taken - to attend Mass at the Cathedral. Mass will be followed by a St Patrick’s Night Hooley at Cornerstone in the company of The Hennessys.

I know that a readers will be interested in this event and would appreciate Catholic People’s help in ‘spreading the word’.

Mary Sullivan
Chair
Newtown Association
Telephone: 07736 420117



**Better Relationships,
Better Lives**

Marriage Care provides professional relationship counselling and marriage preparation.

For an appointment please call:

0800 389 3801

To help us in our mission to support couples please email:

volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

Wanted for the Missions

Large Statues (Even damaged ones), old vestments, pictures, church fittings, rosaries, prayer books, religious books, relics etc.

**Please ring
Mr. B. Ferris KSC,
102 Moor St, Earlsdon,
Coventry CV5 6EY
Tel: 02476 676986**

To advertise in the next issue

of The Catholic People

please call

0151 709 7567

FUNERAL SERVICES

Caerphilly Funeral Services

Parc Avenue, Caerphilly

Independent Family Funeral Director

- Complete Funeral Service •
- Private Rest Rooms •
- Personal care and attention day or night •

We are pleased to serve the Catholic community in Caerphilly and surrounding areas.

Tel: (029) 2086 2100



TOVEYBROS
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**H. TOVEY • J. TOVEY
J. CORTEN • R. DALE
K. FOSTER • D. O’CONNELL**

01633 266848

**Newport Funeral Home,
9/11 Cardiff Road, Newport**
(opposite Royal Gwent Hospital)

www.toveybros.co.uk

A trusted family business serving local families and the community in South East Wales for six generations

Archdiocese of Southwark granted honour for Blessed Oscar Romero



The Blessed Oscar Romero

2017 is the centenary year of the birth of Blessed Oscar Romero, born 15th August 1917. Following a petition from the Archbishop of Southwark, the Most Rev. Peter Smith, formerly Archbishop of Cardiff, to have Blessed Oscar Romero added to the liturgical Calendar of the Diocese, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, by virtue of the faculties granted to it by Pope Francis, has granted that a 'liturgical commemoration' may be celebrated annually in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, on the 24th March, the anniversary of his martyrdom. Although the Archdiocese did not meet the criteria for having Blessed Oscar Romero added to the diocesan calendar, it was recognised that 'the Cathedral is home to a national shrine... and contains a number of his relics...' and so the request was granted for the Cathedral. Archbishop Peter was very pleased to have received this permission, as was The Archbishop Romero Trust which encouraged and supported the application, believed to be the only such granted outside Central America. His Grace said "I am delighted that the Holy See has approved this request, and hope that the example and prayers of Blessed Romero will prove a blessing to the diocese and to all who visit the Cathedral".

On 3rd February 2015 Archbishop Romero was formally declared a martyr, and beatified in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 23rd May 2015. A four metre three dimensional painted Salvadoran Cross, by Fernando Llorca, known as the 'Romero Cross', and a memorial were installed in the Cathedral, and on the 19th September 2013 blessed during an ecumenical service. The cross contains a fragment of Archbishop Romero's blood-stained alb and his zucchetto. Bishop Patrick Lynch, auxiliary bishop in Southwark and titular bishop of Castro, at Archbishop Peter's request, will celebrate the 12.30pm Mass in St George's Cathedral on Friday 24th March 2017 in honour of the memory of Blessed Oscar Romero, the 37th anniversary of his assassination. Bishop Lynch will be vested in a red chasuble originally made for the beatification ceremony and presented to the Cathedral by the Diocese of San Salvador; he will also use the new collect prayer for Blessed Oscar Romero. The intention at the Mass will be to pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Michael Evans, former bishop of East Anglia and for nearly 28 years priest of the diocese of Southwark, who had a great admiration and devotion for Oscar Romero, and was a founding trustee of the Archbishop Romero Trust.

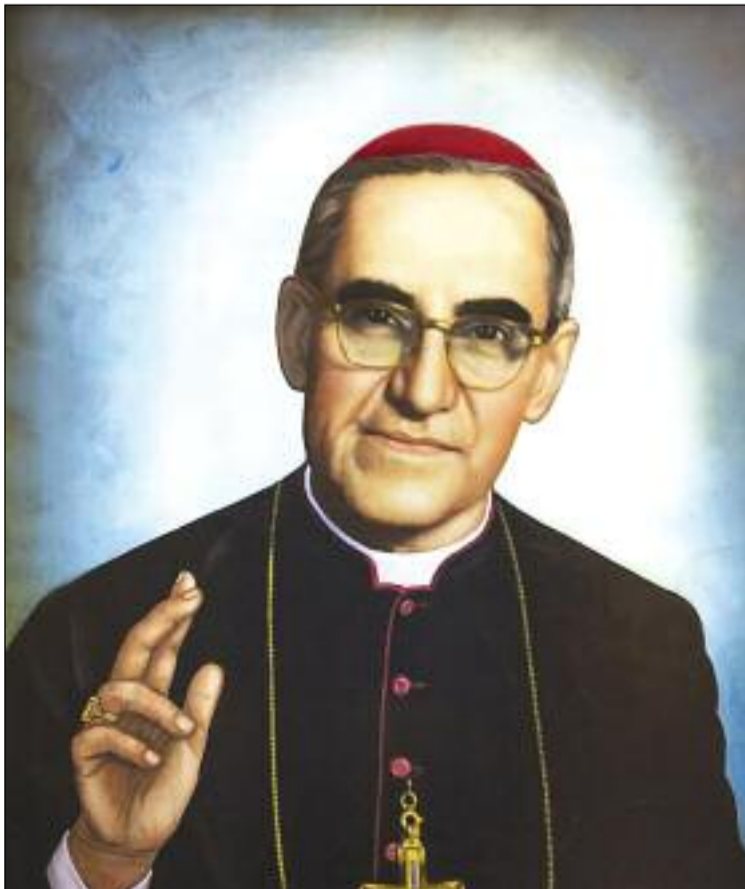
CONTACTS:

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
Diocesan Communications Officer
Fr Philip Glandfield
Archbishop's House
150 St. George's Road
London, SE1 6HX
aps@rcsouthwark.co.uk
The Archbishop Romero Trust
Chairman Julian Filochowski Tel: 07803 -
032430
romerotrust@gmail.com



Archbishop Peter Smith: "The example and prayers of Blessed Romero will prove a blessing to the diocese."

The Life and Death of Oscar Romero



Oscar was born in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador.

- 1930** He declared he had a vocation to the priesthood.
- 1942** He was ordained priest, and returned to El Salvador in 1944. He was a parish priest and also wrote in the diocesan newspaper. He was known as a quiet, conservative man. He became auxiliary bishop of El Salvador in 1970, and bishop of a rural parish in 1974.
- 1977** He was made Archbishop of El Salvador, a 'safe' appointment, someone who would maintain the status quo. Within three weeks this had changed. The Church was entering into a time of persecution because of new ideas which were beginning to be talked about and acted upon by those working with and for the poor. Their talk of justice threatened the way of life of the rich and powerful.

On 12th March a radical priest and friend of Oscar's, Father Rutilio Grande, was brutally murdered in Aguilares. He had been living in poverty alongside landless peasants, believing this is what Jesus would have done. Romero was shocked and decided to act. He ordered three days of mourning and a funeral mass in the cathedral, despite advice to the contrary. Further actions followed.
- 1979** Oscar visited the Pope in Rome and outlined to him, with evidence, the injustices which were part of life in El Salvador. He did not have much support within the church, and was under threat from those outside it. He spoke out against the USA-financed security forces, and became too much of a threat to the government.
- 1980** He was shot dead while celebrating mass. His last words were: 'May God have mercy on the assassin.'
- 1981** Oscar Romero was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (having been nominated in 1978).