



Modern Martyrs: St Oscar Romero

Born: 15th August 1917

Died: 24th March 1980

Occupation: Priest

Biography

He was born in El Salvador, Central America. When he was 13, he decided he wanted to be a priest.

After being made a priest (ordained) in 1942, he rose from being a priest to Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. At the time, San Salvador was a dangerous place to live. The country was run by a government who allowed violence to happen with no consequences.

St Oscar Romero spent time helping people who were poor and punished for their beliefs. His church began to make a record of when the government were abusing human rights. He was shot dead while celebrating mass, also called Holy Communion or the Eucharist. He was made a saint (canonised) in 2018.

Activities

“Those who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless.”

Discuss this quotation with a partner. What do you think St Oscar Romero meant when he said these words? How does that make you feel?

“Speak out for those who cannot speak,
for the rights of all the destitute.
Speak out, judge righteously,
defends the rights of the poor and needy.”
(Proverbs 31:8-9)

Discuss this Bible passage with a partner. How is this passage similar to St Oscar Romero’s quotation?

Write a paragraph about what people can learn from the behaviour and teachings of St Oscar Romero.



For teachers:

We recommend you read our "[Introducing Modern Martyrs: primary teachers' guide](#)" before using this activity sheet.

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