

**ADDRESS BY ARCHBISHOP FAUSTINO SAINZ MUÑOZ  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO GREAT BRITAIN**

**27<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MASS OF ASSASSINATION OF  
ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH, LAURISTON, EDINBURGH**

**SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

I am very happy to be here in Edinburgh this evening to remember the life and work of Archbishop Oscar Romero. We gather on the very anniversary day of his death 27 years ago, and we remember his simplicity of life, his love for the poor and his love of the church. We do not simply remember him for a life that is past, or for his martyrdom. We remember him also because he has a message for today.

His prophetic words, spoken only a few days before his murder, still ring in our ears: “If they kill me I will rise again in the Salvadoran people”. I think the fact that we are celebrating mass for him here in a small country far away from El Salvador is proof that he rose again not only in the Salvadoran people but in people everywhere.

His message of love, his message of solidarity with the poor, his message of challenge to those who abused their position and power, is as relevant today as it was when he lived. That is why his words are prophetic.

Romero is on his way to sainthood, and if and when that process of beatification and canonisation comes to its end it is hoped by many that he will be declared the patron saint of Justice and Peace. I know that tonight there are many people here who are active in Justice and Peace throughout Scotland, and I share your hope for that. But do not wait until he is named a patron to make him your patron! Look to him for guidance and inspiration. Ask him to be an intercessor with our Father in heaven. Learn from him the meaning of prayer and action. Copy the example of his simple life and faithful life. He is already a patron, if not quite yet a patron saint!

I commend to you the work of the Archbishop Romero Trust which has given itself three objectives: to promote knowledge and awareness of the life and work of Archbishop Romero; to encourage and organise prayer services and liturgies like this one on the anniversary of his death, and to support work for justice in Latin America today, carrying on the tradition and spirit of Archbishop Romero. These are noble and inspirational objectives so make them your own as well.