

Assembly: St Oscar Romero



LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

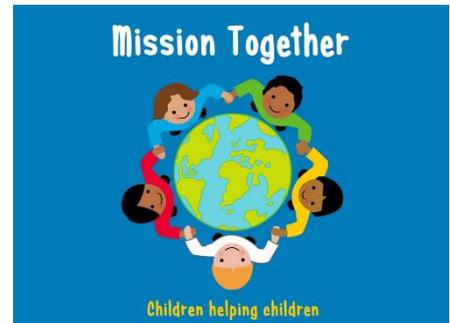
As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through Mission Together, children everywhere pray for and share with one another in a unique exchange of love and friendship.

By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.

This assembly focuses on St Oscar Romero, who fulfilled his mission to love God and serve others during his lifetime.

By following the example of St Oscar Romero, children can become missionaries of God's love too.

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable you run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.



SLIDE TWO

Does anyone recognise the photograph of the man on the right?

[Click to reveal name](#)

Answer: It is Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church.

Does anyone recognise the man on the left?

[Click to reveal name](#)

Answer: It is St Oscar Romero

Pope Francis and Oscar Romero have several things in common. Can you guess what they are?

Answer: They are both priests. They are both from South America. They both love Jesus and chose to live like him. They both have a great concern for those treated unfairly, especially the poor, just as Jesus did.

It was because of Oscar's desire to follow the example of Jesus and show God's love in the world, that following his death, Pope Francis made Oscar a saint.

Let's find out five facts about St Oscar Romero that can help us follow the example of Jesus too.

Maybe they will help us to become saints as well!



SLIDE THREE

FACT ONE: As a boy Oscar Romero knew he wanted to be a priest.

Oscar Romero was born in 1917 in El Salvador, a country in South America. He lived with his mum, dad, five brothers and two sisters.

Oscar's family didn't have much money and couldn't afford to keep Oscar in school, so at the age of 12 he left school and became a trainee carpenter.

Oscar was a talented carpenter, but he was also very close to God and through his prayers and by listening to the Bible he heard God calling him to become a priest. Oscar asked his parents if he could train to become a priest instead of a carpenter. His parents agreed and a few years later Oscar went to a seminary.

A seminary is a special college where young men train to become priests.

[Click to reveal question.](#)

How can we learn to listen to God?

Through our prayers. By reading and listening to the Bible and thinking about what God is saying in the words. By listening to our teachers, priests and religious sisters who tell us about God and his love for us.



SLIDE FOUR

FACT TWO: Fr Oscar was the director of Missio and Mission Together.

At the age of 26, Oscar became Fr Romero and was sent to a small town where, like Jesus, he did lots to help the people. He did such a good job as a priest that after 20 years, Fr Oscar was made a bishop!

A bishop's task is to look after the priests and people of a certain area, bigger than your parish or town. Bishop Oscar was sent to a very run-down region in El Salvador.

When Bishop Oscar was alive a small group of rich and powerful people controlled El Salvador. They were cruel and greedy. They owned almost all the country's land and charged ordinary people lots of money to live there. The powerful people also controlled many big businesses and paid workers far less than they deserved for their work. It wasn't fair and many people became poor. It was a time of great unfairness and unrest.

At this time Bishop Oscar was also made the director of Missio* and Mission Together. As director Bishop Oscar had to encourage everyone to see themselves as brothers and sisters in God's worldwide family, loving one another as Jesus taught, sharing what they had to help others and praying for God's children everywhere.

[Click for question.](#)

How can we love one another as Jesus taught?



By treating one another with kindness and care, sharing what we have, forgiving one another.

**Missio is the parent charity of Mission Together. Missio ignites God's love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.*

SLIDE FIVE

FACT THREE: Archbishop Romero became an unexpected hero.

After just three years as a bishop, Oscar was given another important role. He became the Archbishop. This meant that he was given the responsibility to lead and look after all the bishops, priests and people in El Salvador.

Oscar became Archbishop just as El Salvador was becoming very dangerous. The powerful group who controlled the country were becoming greedier and meaner.

When the poor people asked to be treated more fairly, the powerful group bullied and attacked them. Some priests, including a very good friend of Archbishop Oscar's called Fr Grande, began speaking out. But even they were bullied.

Most people thought Archbishop Oscar would never challenge the powerful, as he was quiet and shy and didn't appear to be very brave.

But when the powerful group became violent and started hurting people, including his good friend Fr Grande, Archbishop Oscar spoke out. He knew that the Bible and especially Jesus, shows us clearly that God wants all his children to be loved, to be safe, and to have the things they need to live well and be happy.

Click for question.

What do you think people need to live well and be happy?

Family, friends, faith, education, healthcare, food, shelter, community, to feel safe.



The slide features a blue header with the text "Mission Together". Below the header, there are three photographs: one of Archbishop Oscar Romero in white vestments, one of him in black clerical attire, and one of two young children. To the right of the photos, the text reads "FACT THREE" followed by "Archbishop Oscar became an unexpected hero." Below this, a question is posed: "What do you think people need to live well and be happy?". The "missio" logo is in the bottom left corner, and a circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

SLIDE SIX

FACT FOUR: Archbishop Oscar's Sunday broadcast was the most popular programme on the radio.

When Archbishop Oscar was alive there was no internet, no phones, no tablets, and only a few people owned a TV. The radio was the best way to get information.

Even so it was difficult to know what was happening in El Salvador as most radio presenters dare not talk about the bad behaviour of the powerful in case they got bullied and attacked too.

All this meant that the powerful continued to get away with being greedy, unfair and cruel.



The slide features a blue header with the text "Mission Together". Below the header, there are three photographs: one of Archbishop Oscar Romero at a radio desk, one of him in black clerical attire, and one of a woman. To the right of the photos, the text reads "FACT FOUR" followed by "Archbishop Oscar's Sunday broadcast was the most popular programme on the radio." The "missio" logo is in the bottom left corner, and a circular logo is in the bottom right corner.

Some poor people became very frustrated and started fighting back. But this just led to more suffering. In response Archbishop Oscar took another very brave step. He began to use the radio to speak to all the people in El Salvador, powerful and poor.

Every Sunday in his radio broadcast Archbishop Oscar would read out passages from the Bible and remind people of the lessons Jesus taught about forgiveness, kindness, fairness and love.

Passages like this from the Gospel of Luke 6:27-28, 37-38 (Adapted)

SLIDE SEVEN

Jesus said to the people, 'I say to you who are listening to me, love your enemies. Do good to those who dislike you. Ask God to bless those who say bad things to you. Pray for those who are cruel to you...

Be kind as God the Father is kind. Don't judge other people, and you will not be judged. Don't look down on other people, and people won't look down on you. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and much will be given to you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

What do you think are the most important lessons Jesus teaches us in this reading?

How might they help us all to live well and be happy?

Mission Together

Jesus said to the people, 'I say to you who are listening to me, love your enemies. Do good to those who dislike you. Ask God to bless those who say bad things to you. Pray for those who are cruel to you. Be kind as God the Father is kind. Don't judge other people, and you will not be judged. Don't look down on other people, and people won't look down on you. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and much will be given to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord
R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

missio

SLIDE EIGHT

For months Archbishop Oscar's Sunday broadcast was the most popular programme on the radio. Thousands tuned in to listen to him. His broadcast was more popular than the nation's football commentary!

Archbishop Oscar's words inspired people to follow the example of Jesus. They still inspire people today. A famous statement Archbishop Oscar made is, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.'

Click for quotation, then click to reveal question.

How will you use words to inspire people today?

By saying something encouraging to our family and friends. By writing a letter or a card to cheer up someone who is ill, sad or lonely. By writing a motivating story or poem to share with your class.

Mission Together

FACT FOUR
Archbishop Oscar's Sunday broadcast was the most popular programme on the radio.

Aspire not to have more, but to be more.

How will you use words to inspire people today?

missio

SLIDE NINE

FACT FIVE: A rare rainbow appeared in the sky during a special prayer service for Archbishop Oscar.

By reminding everyone that God does not want us to be greedy, unfair, and violent, Archbishop Oscar had annoyed people who were being greedy, unfair, and violent. His life was in danger.

On 24th March 1980, whilst he was saying Mass in a hospital chapel Archbishop Oscar was shot and killed. Minutes before the gunman fired, he'd reminded the people that because of Jesus, there will always be hope and new life after death.

Thirty-five years after his death, a special ceremony for Archbishop Oscar took place in El Salvador. It was a grey and cloudy day, but halfway through the service a rare solar halo rainbow appeared in the sky.

In the Bible the rainbow is a symbol of God's favour and his promise to always be with us. The people saw it as sign of God's approval of Oscar and his mission to share Jesus's message of mercy, fairness and love in El Salvador and across the world.

[Click for question.](#)

Archbishop Oscar's mission was to share Jesus's message of mercy, fairness and love.

What is your mission?

Suggest the children can pray for children around the world to be safe, happy and healthy. Prayer is not just talking to God. It also involves listening. Perhaps classes can have a regular moment of silence to get into the habit of listening to God; that way the children will better understand what their mission is. Tell the children not to expect to hear a voice but, rather to have a sense of God's presence and guidance, just as Oscar did when he was a boy.



SLIDE TEN

Just three years after the rainbow appeared at the special prayer service, Pope Francis declared Archbishop Oscar to be a saint of the Church.

A saint is someone who devoted their life to loving God and serving others.

Today many children around the world follow in St Oscar Romero's footsteps. They are fulfilling their mission to love God and serve others by being part of Mission Together.

[Click to reveal photos of children](#)

Through Mission Together, children all around the world join together and help one another, through their prayers and by sharing what they can, so that all the world might know God's love.



SLIDE ELEVEN

Let's follow in the footsteps of St Oscar Romero now by finishing our time together by saying a prayer.

It is the Mission Together Prayer that children all over England and Wales say for children everywhere.

**May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love.
Now and forever.
Amen**

St Oscar Romero, pray for us.

