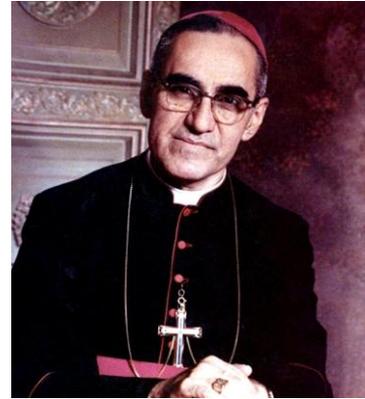


Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 22nd March)

24th March

Saint Oscar Romero - martyr, bishop

Romero was born in El Salvador in 1917. He was trained for the priesthood both there and in Rome. He was consecrated bishop in 1970, translated to the poor Diocese of Santiago de Maria in 1974 and thence to be Archbishop of San Salvador in 1974. He became an outspoken critic of the government that came to power in 1979. On 24th March 1980, agents of the junta assassinated him at the Altar as he said Mass: the previous day, he had preached a sermon heavily criticising the policies of the junta. His funeral, attended by a quarter of a million people, was disrupted by violence during which a number of people were killed. After a somewhat torturous process, he was raised to the altars by Pope Francis in 2015.



25th March



The Annunciation

Also called Lady Day, this festival commemorates events reported in the Gospels:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

/continued over page

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1: 26 - 38