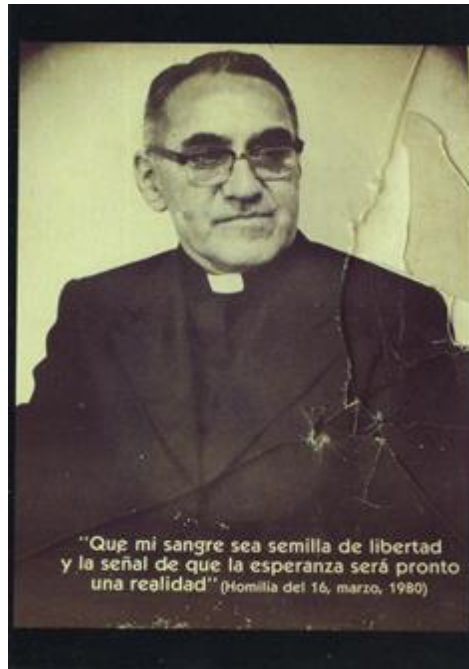# Father Steve Gillhooley

Fr Steve Gilhooley officiates at a Wedding in Kilsyth in 1991

Fr Steve Gilhooley in the 'Jimmy' Hat, organised a charity
road trip with supplies to persecuted Christians living in
Algeria with assistance from the people of Kilsyth.

"Que mi sangre sea semilla de libertad y la señal de que la esperanza será pronto una realidad" (Homilía del 16, marzo, 1980)

Above a commemorative photograph of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, with broken glass having been shot in an attack. The Archbishop himself had been shot and killed standing at the altar in the Chapel at the hospital of Devine Providence in San Salvador whilst saying Mass some months prior to this second attack on his commemorative image in 1981. And so, it was that even after killing this priest, his persecutors, who hated our faith so much, thought that they had to '*kill*' him again!

Ordained Auxiliary Bishop in 1970, Romero gained a reputation as a stubborn and reactionary prelate. He was suspicious of the clergy and the base Christian Communities of the archdiocese working alongside the exploited rural poor. He promoted social organisations and land reform. The death threats to Romero from vested interests multiplied; the atmosphere was charged.

Archbishop Romero realised he was going to be killed. And he came to accept it. At 6.26pm on March 24th, 1980, with a single marksman's bullet, he fell at the foot of a huge crucifix. He died a Eucharistic martyr, a martyr to solidarity with the poor, a martyr for the Magisterium of the Church – and is now recognised as Blessed Oscar Romero.

He was beatified on 23rd May 2015, by Pope Francis. Sancto Surbito!

Source: The Archbishop Romero Trust

Steve Gilhooley is fondly remembered as a priest who saved many souls in Kilsyth particularly amongst the youth. Steve used the example of Archbishop Romero's quest for truth and justice, whatever the cost, as a template for his own ministry.