

> Sea Sunday 2024 Resources

I was a stranger and you welcomed me



STELLA MARIS



Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. The number of crews abandoned by their employers is still at a record high. Conflicts around the world are compromising their safety, and many are experiencing stress and poorer mental health.

Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Please encourage your parish to stand alongside seafarers and fishers so that they will always have a friend in port who they can turn to. Invite your parish to support Sea Sunday on **Sunday 14th July** (or any other date that suits your parish better) by praying for seafarers and giving online or to the collection at Mass.

Please help your parish support Sea Sunday. Instructions for before, during and after Sea Sunday can be found on page 6. Information for Collection Counters can be found on page 7.

In this booklet you will find resources to help your parish celebrate Sea Sunday this year including:

Gospel Meditation | Prayers of Intercession | Newsletter text | Appeal Talk | Parish Checklist

Thank you for your support.

> Gospel Meditation

Mark 6: 7-13



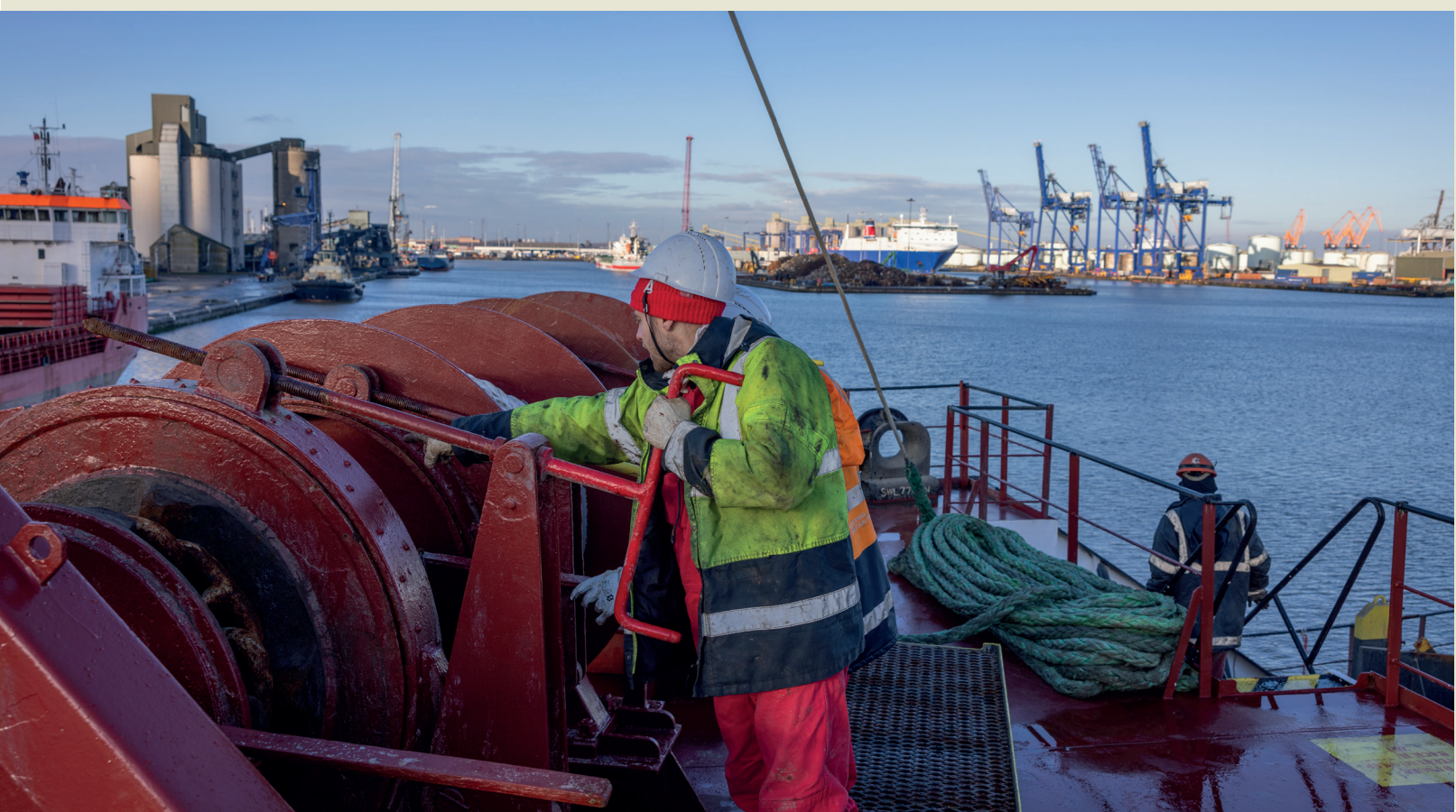
In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs, but they were to take almost nothing with them – so they had to rely on the providence of God on their travels - and the generosity of the people they would stay with on the journey. Those people would be strangers to them – but the disciples were reliant on those strangers' hospitality. This requires faith.

The teaching that God's love is present in welcoming strangers and neighbours is a strong belief of many cultures. The divine lives in each of us, and when we welcome each other, we welcome God, and Jesus, the Son of God.

According to Jesus' instructions, if people didn't welcome or listen to the disciples, they were to walk away, shaking the dust from under their feet. This gesture represents both cleansing and Jesus' displeasure at those who have rejected these strangers (his disciples) – we would surely not want that for ourselves.

When seafarers are in foreign ports, they often rely on the strangers who visit them to support them – to take them to the shops, to give them internet access, to take them to a Church for Mass or confession. Often, they don't even speak the local language, making things even harder.

Sea Sunday is the day our parishes pray for seafarers and fishers and support Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) - the Catholic charity that provides that welcome for seafarers in ports in this country and around the world. The chaplains and volunteers of Stella Maris listen to seafarers' stories, help to provide what they need, and answer Jesus's call to give hospitality to the stranger.



> Suggested Prayers

Of Intercession



CELEBRANT'S INTRODUCTION:

Having welcomed the Word of God in faith, let us offer our prayers to God.

READER:

Let us ask God to protect all seafarers and fishers, who work hard on the perilous sea, to bring us so many of the goods that we rely on in our daily lives. May they always feel the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for seafarers affected by conflict. Especially for those in the Black and Red Seas impacted by the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. That they may be protected during their work. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs to anoint sick people and cure them. Let us pray for all those who are ill, for those who have been injured in accidents onboard ships or elsewhere, and for the sick of our own parish: Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those who feel abandoned, neglected or exploited, whether at sea or in our own community. That they may be supported by God's protection and the care of others. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Lord, help us to show hospitality to strangers. Let us pray for Stella Maris and its mission to be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing love and compassion to all those who visit our ports and shores. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for Pope Francis and all who lead the Church: that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they may continue to guide and shepherd us along the path of faith. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

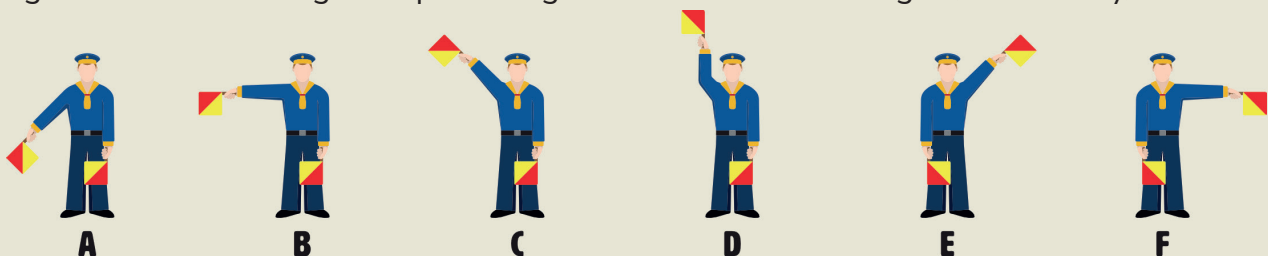
CELEBRANT'S CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Father, in your mercy, accept the prayers we make for ourselves and our neighbours, especially those who work at sea. We make our prayer through Christ, our harbour of peace. Amen

Children's Resources

Enclosed in this pack is a children's prayer boat activity sheet. You can download additional copies of it on our website.

We also have a range of other children's activities including colouring sheets and an option to write a message to a seafarer using semaphore flags at www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday/Children



> Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2024



Good morning/evening everyone,

My name is xx and I am here to talk about the welfare of seafarers and fishers. These brave men and women are the unseen backbone of our global economy, working tirelessly to bring us goods and resources that we need. They spend months away from their families, facing isolation, loneliness, challenging conditions, and sometimes extreme danger. This is especially true of those currently working in the Black and Red Seas due to the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Imagine leaving your family behind, signing on for a job at sea, and finding yourself at risk of missiles, drone attacks, and piracy. This is the harsh reality for many seafarers working on these vital trade routes.

Seafarers in these conflict zones are often scared, witnessing destruction first-hand. Security concerns frequently prevent them from going ashore, adding loneliness and anxiety to an already stressful situation.

This is where Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church, steps in. They support seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Their dedicated chaplains are a

lifeline for mariners. They offer a listening ear and much-needed spiritual support. They bring food parcels, offer Wi-Fi so seafarers can call home, and provide hardship grants and access to mental health counselling.

In today's Gospel, we were reminded of the importance of welcoming the stranger. This is needed more than ever for seafarers today. Imagine the relief they feel when they see a friendly face coming onboard, someone to talk to, someone who cares.

Stella Maris' ship visits are only possible because of your support. Your generosity helps their chaplains and volunteers to assist 125,000 seafarers in UK ports and to reach up to 70,000 ships worldwide per year.

Please donate today. Your generous contribution will help this work to continue and grow. It will be an expression of God's love, helping to welcome seafarers and fishers who are strangers in these lands.

Without your support and prayers, Stella Maris would not be able to carry out this important ministry on behalf of the Church. Thank you to Father [xxx] for allowing me to speak here today about this important, but often forgotten, ministry.



> Social Media & Audio Appeal



Please consider mentioning Sea Sunday on your social media channels. We have included some guide text below. We have some images that you can download to include in your post at www.stellamaris.org.uk/seasunday

You can also share our other posts from www.facebook.com/StellaMarisOrg

For Facebook: Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Thank you.

For Twitter: Today @PARISHTWITTER celebrates #seasunday to remember & pray for seafarers, fishers & @StellaMarisOrg supporting them all over the world.

Audio Appeal

On our website www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday we have an audio appeal for Sea Sunday.

If you do not have a speaker present to give the appeal in person, please play the audio appeal during the notices at Mass, before the second collection.



> Parish Newsletter

Paragraph for insertion



Newsletter announcement for 7th & 14th July

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 14th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

Newsletter announcement for 21st July

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £..... Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

Parish Checklist

Before Sea Sunday

- Confirm with the Parish Priest that there will be a second collection at the end of all Masses on Sea Sunday weekend.
- Ask one of the readers or another volunteer to read the appeal talk during Mass on Sea Sunday, if this is possible. Otherwise perhaps the Priest may be able to read the appeal or play the audio appeal.
- Please display the posters on your notice board as soon as possible
- Put the announcement in the parish newsletter, one for the week before, one for Sea Sunday.
- If possible, include the intercessions for seafarers and the work of Stella Maris in the service.
- Pass on our children's activity sheet to the children's catechists.

On Sea Sunday

- Make Gift Aid envelopes available around pews before people arrive for Mass, or have them available as people leave.
- Check the reader, volunteer or Parish Priest has the appeal text to read at the end of Mass, before the second collection

After Sea Sunday

- Please send the collection by cheque, payable to 'Stella Maris', to Stella Maris, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX, together with the Gift Aid envelopes, so the tax can be reclaimed.
- Please display the thank you poster (on the reverse of the A4 poster) and fill in the amount your parish raised.
- Put the thank you announcement in your newsletter the week after Sea Sunday.

> Information

For Collection Counters



Please take up the second collection in support of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) on Sea Sunday, 14th July 2024 (or whichever date is best for your parish).

We have Gift Aid envelopes available (some are included) for your parishioners' use. Please contact us if you would like more Gift Aid envelopes. If your parish has their own contactless device (e.g. Dona, SumUp), you might be able to use this for your second collection for Stella Maris.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Once Mass has finished, please collect any completed Gift Aid envelopes and count the total money donated.

Note: Please could you kindly check the donation within each Gift Aid envelope completed. If the amount enclosed is the same as stated on the envelope, please do not change it. However if the amount enclosed differs from the amount stated on the envelope, please write clearly on the envelope the amount that was enclosed.

2. Please bank the cash and send us a cheque for the total amount made payable to **Stella Maris**. Alternatively, to make a bank transfer, please use the details below.

Please send the collection cheque as soon as possible to the Stella Maris office:
Stella Maris, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX

Bank details for a bank transfer:

As the reference, please remember to use **your church postcode** so that we can correctly allocate this gift to your parish and thank you and your parishioners.

Stella Maris
Lloyds Bank Plc
P O Box 1000
BX1 1LT
Sort Code: 30 90 69
Account No: 35 63 02 60

Please remember to send us the Gift Aid envelopes so the tax can be reclaimed.



> Feedback Form



Name of parish priest: _____

Name of parish contact (if applicable): _____

Name of parish: _____

Diocese: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish website: _____

We enclose a cheque for from our 2024 Sea Sunday Collection

We enclose any completed Gift Aid envelopes

Please send your Sea Sunday collection and completed Gift Aid envelopes to:

Stella Maris
39 Eccleston Square
London
SW1V 1BX
Tel: 020 7901 1931

Becoming a Stella Maris Parish Contact

Is there someone in your parish who could be the Stella Maris Parish Contact? Perhaps they have a connection with shipping or the sea? Please suggest a parishioner who is willing to take on this role and let us have their contact details below (with their agreement).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____