

> Sea Sunday Resources



In this pack 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 you support.



STELLA MARIS
(APOSTLESHIP
OF THE SEA)

> Gospel Meditation

Luke 1: 26-38



Pope Francis once noted that, like Mary in today's Gospel, we too can find ourselves at a loss. 'How will this come about in times so full of speculation? There is speculation about life, about work, about family. There is speculation about the poor and the migrants; there is speculation about young people and their future. While grief knocks at the doors...speculation abounds everywhere'.

The words of Pope Francis summarise the general atmosphere of uncertainty and frustration that the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted on us today. It is worse still for the seafarers at sea. In all of this, the words from the Angel to Mary 'Do not be afraid' should be a source of courage and strength to all. A phrase that offers assurance from God, comforting those at a difficult moment in life.

On Sea Sunday we remember too that seafarers face difficult challenges daily. These challenges include stress, isolation and loneliness, separation from their families and loved ones due to the nature of their work; violent storms and bad weather situations at sea due to climate change; the threat of piracy. With Covid-19 restrictions in place in many ports, contracts have been extended and seafarers face extra stress and anxiety, not knowing when they will be able to go home. Over 400,000 will no longer go home for Christmas as planned.

Like our Blessed Mother, they accepted their calling trusting in God, and when life becomes difficult, they often hold on to the angel Gabriel's words, 'Do not be afraid.'

Over 90% of world trade is conveyed by sea, thanks to seafarers. They are the heroes that keep the world economy going and sustained, yet they remain uncelebrated in most cases, if not forgotten. You can imagine what the world would look like without them. Stella Maris' committed chaplains and volunteers offer them hope, friendship and hospitality and provide pastoral and welfare support to thousands of seafarers and fishers each year. They become friends of strangers, listen to their stories; offer guidance and comfort when the need arises.

The Annunciation and the birth of Christ are about giving; a celebration of God's self-giving to humanity. It teaches us the need to share with others. It also teaches us to trust in the Divine Providence of God to whom nothing is impossible. God will be with us in all the circumstances of life. Our generosity on Sea Sunday echoes Mary's generous act of self-giving and will in no small way help to promote the spread of the Gospel, a culture of love, and to enhance the dignity of seafarers. Generosity comes from faith in God, and it is in giving that we receive.

Please keep Stella Maris and all the seafarers and fishers in your prayers.

> 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 pray for the Church, for our Holy Father Pope Francis, for our Bishops, Priests and Deacons. We give thanks to God for 100 years of the ministry of Stella Maris and for the generous support of everyone who helped make this happen. May God continue to bless the work of Stella Maris, and the People of the Sea together with Stella Maris chaplains, staff, volunteers and supporters.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all who govern us, that God may grant them wisdom and compassion. We pray that governments may enact laws that promote the welfare and uphold the rights of seafarers. We pray that all seafarers and fishers be protected from Covid-19 and that governments ensure they are granted safe and swift passage home to their families.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those on the margins of society: the poor, migrants, prisoners, the unborn and the elderly. We pray especially for seafarers who work far from their homes and families, for those who are sick or have been injured onboard, and for those who are ill-treated and frightened at sea.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for our own parish community and for everyone living in our area, especially for anyone who is in need. We remember all seafarers and their families and ask God to comfort those who feel lonely and far from loved ones.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for all those who have died, especially members of our own family and community, and for all those lost at sea.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

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



> Parish Newsletter

Paragraph for insertion in newsletter and e-newsletter



For insertion the week before Sea Sunday:

Next week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church.

For a digital appeal, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.Stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday

Sea Sunday has been moved from July because of the pandemic and Stella Maris is particularly asking for donations by text or online. To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

For insertion the week of Sea Sunday:

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. 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. For a digital appeal, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Parish Social Media

Please consider mentioning Sea Sunday on your social media channels. We have included some guide text below. You can also share our video and 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. Without them, we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. 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.



> Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2020



What did you have for breakfast this morning? A banana? A cup of tea or coffee?

I ask this because it highlights one of the remarkable aspects of the crisis that has gripped us this year. The global trade of goods has continued virtually unaffected. Food continues to arrive in our kitchens from all around the world. Not to mention medicine, medical equipment and any number of other items.

In fact, 90% of the products in our shops and homes have arrived here by sea and have been brought to us by seafarers.

These hardworking men and women who crew container ships, oil tankers, fishing vessels and transporters are among the true frontline heroes of 2020. Today, on Sea Sunday, we thank God for them, just as we clapped for carers back in the Spring.

But this week, many seafarers face a miserable, lonely Christmas, thousands of miles away from their families.

Right now, around 400,000 seafarers are stranded around the world because of the pandemic.

National quarantine rules, airline cancellations and ongoing disruption mean they cannot return home. Many have had their contracts extended again and again, and some have not seen their families for up to a year. Seafarers are exhausted and anxious. This is a humanitarian crisis, but few outside the maritime sector know about it. As we reflect upon the Nativity scene in the crib, let us remember that some seafarers will miss the birth of their child while stranded at sea this Christmas time. Like all of us, they just want to be with their loved ones for Christmas.

This Sea Sunday, I hope you will join with us at Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) to make Christmas special for stranded seafarers.

Here's how you can help please.

At Stella Maris, we have chaplains and volunteers working in ports up and down the country and across the world. This week – even on Christmas Day – they will be out, as usual, visiting seafarers on the gangway or dockside. They will (safely) hand out small gifts and provide vital pastoral care. They will provide welfare packages of food and toiletries and faith resources: rosaries, Bibles and prayer books. And they will make videos of Gospel readings and email them out to crews stuck onboard ships.

But all this can only happen with your support. Today, please, will you do two things?

Firstly, please remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank God for them and the vital role they play in all our lives, often working in difficult and hazardous conditions and harsh weather.

Secondly, please could you give a donation? Your gift will help seafarers who are stranded and who won't see their families this Christmas. It will show your appreciation for these often-forgotten key workers. And your support will be a generous expression of God's love. You can donate in one of three ways:

- use the giving envelope provided
- text SEA to 70460 to donate £5
- give via the website: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

Thank you so much for playing a part this Sea Sunday. We are very grateful for all your support.

> Parish Checklist

Before, During & After



Before Sea Sunday

- Ask one of the readers or another volunteer to read the appeal talk on Sea Sunday, if this is possible. Otherwise perhaps the Priest may be able to read the appeal.
- Put the announcement in your newsletter and e-newsletter if you have one, one for the week before and one for Sea Sunday.
- If possible, include the intercessions for seafarers and the work of the Stella Maris in the service

On Sea Sunday

- Distribute Gift Aid envelopes 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

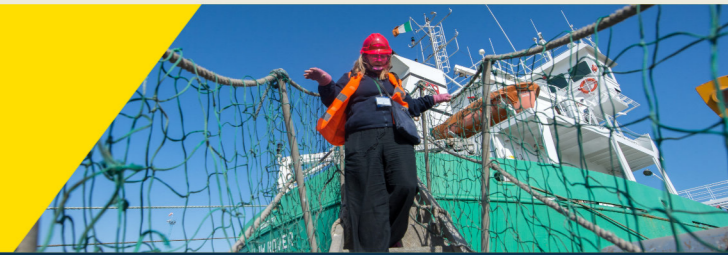
- Please send the collection by cheque, payable to 'Stella Maris', to Stella Maris, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX, together with the Gift Aid envelopes, so the tax can be reclaimed.

Sea Sunday video

We would be grateful if you would consider including our appeal video at the end of your online Mass. You can download the video at www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday, or request a copy at info@stellamarismail.org

> Information

For collection counters



Please take up the second collection in support of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) on Sea Sunday, 20th December 2020 (or whichever date is best for your parish).

We have Gift Aid envelopes available (a few are included for your use). Please contact us if you would like more Gift Aid envelopes.

Step-by-step instructions

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

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 include 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 2020 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: 0207 9011931

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 (with their agreement) who is willing to take on this role and let us have their contact details below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____