

> Sea Sunday 2021 Resources

I was a stranger and you welcomed me



Stella Maris is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains and ship visitors in ports in the UK and around the world provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers.

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 your support.



STELLA MARIS
(APOSTLESHIP
OF THE SEA)

> 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. This is the welcome of the Church to all. A call to the Church today is to welcome all and be enriched by the variety of prayer, friendship and worship which all can bring.

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 pray for the Church, for our Holy Father Pope Francis, for our Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and for those who serve as chaplains, ship visitors and volunteers of Stella Maris.

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 today that governments and international bodies may enact and enforce laws that promote the welfare of seafarers and fishers, whose rights and dignity are too often overlooked.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

This is the year of St Joseph, who Pope Francis in 'Patris corde' describes as 'a working father, a father in the shadows'. Let us pray for all those who labour unseen, especially for those seafarers whose toil on far-off oceans is vital and yet so rarely noticed, as they work hard to transport the world's goods and to provide income for their own families.

Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs to anoint sick people with oil and cure them. Let us pray for all those who are sick, for those who have been injured in accidents onboard ships, for those who are ill-treated and frightened at sea or on land, and for the sick of our own parish:

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 fishers 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. We remember the dead of our parish:

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



> Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2021



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

Good morning/evening. I am here to speak to you about the work of Stella Maris, formerly Apostleship of the Sea, the Catholic church's maritime charity

Seafarers are extremely important to this country. 90% of goods that come here arrive by ship. That is much of the food we eat, the equipment in our hospitals, our phones, cars, petrol, just about everything.

Seafarers work long shifts, seven days a week, often for nine months at a time. In these times of pandemic, many haven't been home for over a year. They are far away from their family and loved ones, always at sea or a stranger in a foreign land.

And what happens when something goes wrong? When they are exploited or abused? When they are abandoned by their employer or their wages unpaid?

This was the case for Jimaster, a 22 year-old seafarer who got stranded in Uruguay during the pandemic. He had joined a fishing vessel when his father died, so that he could provide for his family. But his wages had never been paid and he was confined to his ship, with only a small amount of rice to eat and limited water. The temperature dropped and he had no winter clothing. Two of the crew came down with a fever and he thought he would die.

But a Stella Maris chaplain came to the ship with food, clothes, phone cards, and medical supplies. The chaplain worked with the port authorities and ship owners and eventually managed to get Jimaster home to his family in the Philippines. He believes that, without Stella Maris, he would most likely be dead.

For hundreds of seafarers like Jimaster, a ship visit from Stella Maris provides critical support.

Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers are working in ports up and down this country and across the world. This weekend they will be out visiting seafarers as usual. They welcome the stranger, in line with Jesus's instruction in today's Gospel. In the good times, they provide seafarers with faith resources, warm clothing, SIM cards so they can talk to their families back home, and help them to get to confession or Mass, or to the local shops. And in the bad times, as in Jimaster's case, they do so much more.

But they can't do it without your support. Your prayers and generous donations ensure Stella Maris can continue to welcome the strangers in our ports, and be there for seafarers like Jimaster when they need assistance. You can help in two ways.

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

Secondly, please could you kindly give a donation? Your gift will help Stella Maris chaplains welcome seafarers who may be stranded and who may not have seen their families for months. Your support will be a generous expression of God's love, giving help to these key workers and hospitality to strangers.

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

If you are a taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid section to increase your donation by 25%.

Thank you for listening and may God bless you for your support of this work.

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. 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.



> Parish Checklist

Before, During & After



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 on Sea Sunday, if this is possible. Otherwise perhaps the Priest may be able to read the appeal or play the audio appeal (see below).
- 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. Or that the audio appeal is available and working.

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 audio and video appeals

On our website www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday, we have two additional resources:

- Audio appeal for Sea Sunday.
- Video Appeal for Sea Sunday detailing an example of the work of Stella Maris.

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

Children's activities



We have a range of 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

> Information

For collection counters



Please take up the second collection in support of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) at all Masses on Sea Sunday, 11th July 2021 (or whichever date is best for your parish).

We have Gift Aid envelopes available (a few are included for your parishioners' 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.
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 the code supplied in the cover letter 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 2021 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 who is willing to take on this role and let us have their contact details below (with their agreement).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____