

> Sea Sunday 2022 Resources

How will you help your neighbour?



STELLA MARIS



Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health.

Stella Maris 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 10th 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 p5. Information for Collection Counters can be found on p6.

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



So, who is our neighbour? Our neighbour does not just mean someone who lives near us; it also means strangers we meet. And when seafarers arrive in a port, they are strangers in a foreign land. Their home can be thousands of miles away.

They do not know the locals. Often, they do not speak the language. And they do not know how to do many of things that we take for granted where we live. Where can I find a shop where I can buy toiletries? How do I get there? How can I access the internet to contact my family? Where is the nearest church?

It is the stranger that Stella Maris port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors are there to help when they go on board a ship. Like the Samaritan in the gospel, they are concerned for the welfare of those they meet.

Recently a Ukrainian seafarer fell into his ship's hold and broke his back; Stella Maris' local port chaplains visited him in hospital, enabled him to get in touch with his family, and found a Russian speaker in the local community to make communication easier.

Stella Maris chaplains help foreign seafarers with friendship and to find necessary healthcare, - and they support them until they are recovered. Chaplains also help to find dental care, and even mental health resources.

The help Stella Maris chaplains give might include providing a mobile phone top-up, warm clothes in the winter, or arranging for seafarers to attend Mass or Confession or both. At other times, it might mean helping a seafarer resolve an issue with their employers over pay, or working conditions.

The Gospel calls us all to help the stranger. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visitors do this in ports around the world.



> 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 all volunteers with Stella Maris, the Apostleship of the Sea. 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 laws that promote the welfare of seafarers, whose rights and dignity are too often overlooked. Lord hear us.

(All) Lord graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those on the margins of society: the poor, prisoners, the unborn and the elderly. We pray for seafarers, especially those who are sick or have been injured in accidents onboard ships, and those who are ill-treated or frightened. 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.

We ask Our Lady, Stella Maris, Star of the Sea, to guide always and everywhere all people of the sea and those who care and minister to them. 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

You can download additional copies of our children's activity sheet online. We also have a range of other children's activities including colouring sheets, foldable shipping containers, and an option to write a message to a seafarer using semaphore flags at www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday/Children



➤ Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2022



Good morning/afternoon/evening everyone

My name is _____ and I am here on behalf of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church, which you may also know as the Apostleship of the Sea.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the support you give to Stella Maris's work each year during Sea Sunday. Your donations reach thousands of seafarers and fishers in need. This help is critical, and it allows us to continue our work every year.

In today's Gospel you heard about the love and care that the Good Samaritan showed to the stranger that he found upon the road. For seafarers and fishers, Stella Maris is that Good Samaritan. It has chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world. They are a friend for seafarers and fishers, in good times and in bad.

I'd like to share with you one story of how your love and generosity can make a huge difference to a seafarer and their family.

Recently Olek, a Ukrainian seafarer, was working on the deck of a cargo ship when he had a serious accident. He fell into the hold and broke his back. He was taken to Hull Royal Infirmary for urgent medical help. He spoke very little English and had no family or friends here to support him.

Fortunately, Anne McLaren, a Stella Maris chaplain, went and visited him in the hospital. During that first visit she found out that he was from Ukraine, his house had been bombed, and his family were still sheltering in the city.

Can you imagine how it must feel to be seriously injured, so far from home? Worried about your health, not able to speak the language of your doctors? And knowing your family are trapped in the middle of a war thousands of miles away, and you are unable to help them?

Olek stayed in Hull for several months while they stabilised his spine. Throughout that time, Anne and volunteers from Stella Maris visited him regularly and supported him as Good Samaritans. They arranged for a translator. They brought him clean clothes, toiletries, and mobile phone SIM cards so that he could contact his family back home. They made sure that he was not alone. He was not forgotten. He had a friend.

Concern for the welfare of the stranger, and the value of friendship to those who are far from home, is exactly the reason why Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, was established over 100 years ago. And today this has never been more relevant.

In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many seafarers are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and worse mental health. And the war in Ukraine has added to crew shortages and shipping turmoil.

But you can be a friend for seafarers in this time of need. Last year your generosity helped us to support over 100,000 seafarers in ports around the UK and many more around the world. This Sea Sunday it will help us to provide vital support to seafarers like Olek and his family.

So today, 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. Please pray for the Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers who ensure that seafarers will always have a friend in port.

Your generous contributions today will help all this work continue. Your support will be an 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 tax payer, please complete one of the Gift Aid envelopes to make this collection go 25% further.

I conclude with these words from Pope Francis. “The life of sailors or fishermen and their families is very difficult. Sometimes they are victims of forced labour or are left behind in distant ports. But without the people of the sea, many parts of the world would starve”.

Without your support, we would not be able to do the work we do on your behalf. Thank you to Fr..... for your invitation to speak here today. Thank you all for your time and may God bless your kindness and generosity.

> Social Media, Audio & Video Appeals



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

- Audio appeal from Bishop Paul Mason 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 Bishop's audio appeal during the notices at Mass, before the second collection. Please share our short video on your parish Facebook page and other social media.

Parish Social Media

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 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. 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.

➤ Parish Newsletter

Paragraph for insertion



Newsletter announcement for 3rd & 10th July

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health.

Sea Sunday is Sunday 10th 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 17th 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 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 the week before, one for Sea Sunday.
- If possible, include the intercessions for seafarers and the work of Stella Maris in the service.
- Share our short video on your parish Facebook page and other social media.
- Pass on our children's activity sheet to catechists

On Sea Sunday

- Make Gift Aid envelopes available around pews before people arrive for Mass, or have them available as people leave. (Prayer cards are available on request).
- 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) and fill in the amount your parish raised.
- Put the thank you announcement in your newsletter and e-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, 10th July 2022 (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. 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 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 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 2022 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: _____