

Watch the Sea Sunday video at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/aos-film

Sea Sunday Resources



**Apostleship
of the Sea**

Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

Key contents

Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains and ship visitors in ports around the country provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers, who are often thousands of miles away from their families back home.

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All resources in this book can also be downloaded from our website at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/resources-parishes

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Gospel reading

LK 10:25-37

And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?'

He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right, do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' In answer Jesus said, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, "Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits' hands?' He replied, 'The one who showed pity towards him.' Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'



Meditation

So who is our neighbour? Our neighbour doesn't 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 don't know the locals. Often, they don't speak the language. And they don't 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 batteries? How do I get there? Where can I access the internet to contact my family? Where is the nearest church?

It's the stranger that Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) 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.

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

The Gospel calls us all to help the stranger. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) chaplains and ship visitors do this in ports around the world. We can do it where we live, by supporting Sea Sunday and Stella Maris.



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 of Stella Maris, 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 especially for seafarers who work far from their homes and families, for those who are sick or have been injured in accidents onboard ships, and for those who are ill-treated and 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.

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 liturgy Points for leaders

- In the gospel reading, who is doing the will of God and how? Ask the children to name someone they know who shows care for others.
- If a new pupil arrives at school, how could he or she be made welcome? How do they think that pupil feels, not knowing anyone?
- Explain that seafarers can be on a ship for weeks or months. Ask the children how they would feel if they didn't see their family or friends for that length of time.
- Ask the children what kind of things cargo ships might carry. Explain that many of the items that we buy in shops are brought to us by ships.
- Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea chaplains visit seafarers when they are in port. What kind of help do the children think seafarers might need? (help to phone home and speak to their children, to find the shops in a foreign port, transport to get to Mass)
- What might seafarers pray to Jesus for? Mention loneliness, missing their families and friends, a safe voyage, being scared of storms or pirates.
- The children can colour the colouring page (back cover) and receive a Sea Sunday sticker.

- Finish with this prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Help everyone who is not made welcome, who feels lonely and ignored; people we know and especially today on Sea Sunday, seafarers. Help us to be kind to anyone who we see is lonely or being ignored and help the Apostleship of the Sea to welcome seafarers when they come to the ports in our country.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

- See P.12 (back page) for a picture you can photocopy for the children to colour in.

Also included in this pack are Sea Sunday stickers and an origami ship for the children to construct.



Newsletter texts

For insertion in newsletter distributed the week before Sea Sunday: Sunday 7th July

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, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. As it is dependent on voluntary donations, please give generously. For more information about its work, visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

For insertion in newsletter distributed the week of Sea Sunday: Sunday 14th July

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 Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you. To donate online please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Parish Twitter announcement

Today @PARISHTWITTER celebrates #seasunday to remember & pray for seafarers, fishermen & @apostleshipsea supporting them all over the world.

Sea Sunday appeal talk

Good morning/afternoon/evening - My name is _____ and I am a _____ (parish contact) for Stella Maris, a Catholic charity. We are also known as the Apostleship of the Sea, but over the next year we are making the change to 'Stella Maris' the name seafarers know us as.

Stella Maris has chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world, 'a friend in every port' for seafarers and fishermen, in good times and bad alike. I'd like to share with you one story of how vital the work of Stella Maris is for seafarers and their families when difficulties arise.

A group of Kenyan seafarers were stuck in Cape Town Port for over a year between 2017 and 2019 and were supported by Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea).

The men had been working on a tug boat which was hired to deliver a barge from Mombasa in Kenya to Port Elizabeth in South Africa, they were then to sail on to Nigeria.

After delivering the barge the crew tried to sail onwards to Nigeria, but extremely high waves forced them to turn back to Port Elizabeth.

They waited for the weather to clear and eventually reached Cape Town some weeks later.

For over a year the seafarers were stranded in the port as a deal with the new tug owner failed to materialise, and their ship was put into dry dock for repairs

The crew, three Catholics and four Muslims were visited onboard their ship in Cape Town by the Stella Maris director, Nicky Barends. Nicky said 'I can't imagine how they coped; arriving here after a dangerous voyage which left them fearing for their lives, and then stranded in a foreign port away from their families for over a year.

For many months the crew didn't receive their salaries. Can you imagine what it would be

like for you not receiving your salary month after month. One seafarer asked Nicky to intervene on his behalf. He was very worried as he needed to send money home as his child in Kenya needed medical treatment. He also told Nicky that the ship's cook had gone back home to Kenya without getting paid the salary that was owed to him.

During the many months this crew was stranded in Cape Town the Stella Maris team; Nicky and his volunteers visited the crew regularly to support them and let them know they were not forgotten. They took the Catholic seafarers to Saturday evening Mass at the seafarers' centre each week and one-week Nicky arranged a barbecue at his home for them to try and keep their spirits up.

Working with the Stella Maris team in London and other maritime authorities after nearly two years all the crew were eventually sent home and paid their wages. Meaning that families could be reunited and children's medical treatment could continue.

Every year Stella Maris visits more than 70,000 ships around the world, day in day out. This work is only possible thanks to your prayers, generous donations and those people who remember Stella Maris with a gift in their Will.

So today, on Sea Sunday, I ask you to pray for seafarers who bring us the goods we consume every day, pray for the Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers who ensure that seafarers can live with dignity and practise their faith.

Your generous contributions today will help all this work continue.

If you are a tax payer, please complete one of the Gift Aid envelopes to make this collection go a little further. Last year the extra tax from the Gift Aid enabled AoS to visit 500 ships helping 10,000 seafarers.

Thank you for listening and may God bless your generosity.

Where does your money go?



For every £1 you give to AoS, we spend:

- **74p** directly on seafarers' welfare.
- **26p** on governance, administration and generating funds to continue our work.

All the financial information can be verified at the Charity Commission website: www.charitycommission.gov.uk
You can also download our latest annual report and financial statements by visiting our website: <http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/annual-review-accounts>

Leaving a legacy to AoS

By remembering AoS with a gift in your Will, you can join the long list of remarkable people who have supported the faith and welfare of seafarers over the last 100 years.

Many Catholics are very generous with their lifetime giving, but surprisingly few think of continuing their generosity with a legacy gift. There can be many reasons for this, but the main one is that nobody asked them.

We encourage you to have more conversations with people on the subject and, to help you do so, we have created the "Legacy giving handy guide".

It's small yet packed full of useful conversation starters and answers to common questions.

You don't need to be an expert on the subject, as you can pass any questions and enquiries on to AoS Director of Development, John Green. He will be happy to send you the handy guide, legacy giving leaflets, will-writing guides, and lists of local specialist solicitors, or come and give a talk on legacies in your parish.

For more info email john.green@stellamarismail.org

Parish check list

Before Sea Sunday

- Ask one of the readers or another volunteer to read the appeal talk on Sea Sunday
- Ask the ushers to hand out the Gift Aid envelopes as people arrive for Mass
- Give the children's liturgy sheet, colouring sheet and stickers to the children's liturgy catechist
- Put an announcement in your newsletter, one for the week before and one for Sea Sunday.
- If possible include the intercessions for seafarers and the work of the Apostleship of the Sea

On Sea Sunday

- Ensure the Gift Aid envelopes are given out before Mass and there are some pens available
- Check the reader or volunteer has the appeal text to read at the end of Mass, before the second collection

After Sea Sunday

- Send the collection by cheque, payable to 'Apostleship of the Sea', to Apostleship of the Sea, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX, together with the gift aid envelopes, so the tax can be reclaimed.

Sea Sunday video

The Apostleship of the Sea has produced a video to help parishes celebrate Sea Sunday 2019. This is available to download at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/aos-film or to request a free CD or USB stick with it email nathaniel@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk or call **0207 901 1931** during office hours. This film is seven and a half minutes long. A one and a half minute 'advert', suitable for embedding in your parish website, is also available.



Information for collection counters

Please take up the second collection in support of the Apostleship of the Sea on Sea Sunday, 14th July 2019 (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 **Apostleship of the Sea**. Alternatively to make a bank transfer, please use the details below.

Please send the collection cheque as soon as possible to the AoS office:

Apostleship of the Sea, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX

Bank details for a bank transfer

Apostleship of the Sea
Lloyds Bank Plc
P O Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Sort Code: 30 90 69
Account No: 35 63 02 60



Thank you for your help. Because of the crucial part you play, the Apostleship of the Sea, on behalf of the Church, will be able to support more seafarers from around the world.

Feedback form

Name of parish priest/parish contact: _____

Name of parish: _____

Diocese: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish website: _____

☐ We enclose a cheque for £ from our 2019 Sea Sunday collection

☐ We enclose any completed Gift Aid envelopes

Send your Sea Sunday collection and completed Gift Aid envelopes to:
Apostleship of the Sea
39 Eccleston Square
London
SW1V 1BX
Tel: 0207 9011931

Does your parish have an AoS Parish Contact?

Is there someone in your parish who could be the AoS 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: _____

Children's liturgy



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Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

