

> Sea Sunday 2025 Resources

Who is your neighbour?



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 seafarers' 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 13th 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

Luke 10:25-37



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 to 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 Good Samaritan in the Gospel, they are concerned for the welfare of those they meet.

Stella Maris chaplains help foreign seafarers with friendship and to find necessary healthcare, and they support them until they have recovered from injuries or illnesses. 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 working conditions or pay.

The Gospel calls us all to help the stranger. Stella Maris chaplains and ship visitors do this every day in ports around the UK and 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 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. We pray especially for those affected by conflicts around the world, particularly in the Red Sea, Ukraine and Israel and Palestine.

LORD, HEAR US.

Let us pray for all those who feel abandoned, neglected or exploited, both in our own communities and among seafarers and fishers around the world.

LORD, HEAR US.

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

LORD, HEAR US.

We pray for Pope Leo XIV and all who lead the Church: that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they may continue to guide and shepherd us along the right, just and true path of faith.

LORD, HEAR US.

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

LORD HEAR US.

May the grace of the Jubilee Year reawaken in us a yearning for the treasures of Heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. May the hope of the Jubilee inspire us, our parish community, and seafarers and fishers around the world.

LORD 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 activity sheet. You can download additional copies of it from 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 2025



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 your generosity each year during Sea Sunday. Your donations reach thousands of seafarers and fishers. Without it, Stella Maris simply couldn't do this vital work.

In today's Gospel we 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. Its chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world offer friendship and support to seafarers and fishers, in good times and in bad.

I'd like to share a story with you today that shows just how much your kindness means.

Carlo was working as a cook on a ship when he suddenly fell seriously ill. He was due to fly home to the Philippines, but instead was admitted to hospital. The ship had to leave and Carlo faced being left completely alone in a foreign country.

He spent three weeks in hospital. During that time Steve, one of Stella Maris' port chaplains, became a lifeline – visiting him regularly and supporting him as a Good Samaritan. Steve brought clean clothes, food, and a mobile phone SIM card so that Carlo could speak to his family. On his birthday, Steve arrived with a card and a small gift. It was a simple act of kindness, but it meant the world.

Three weeks is a long time to be stuck in a hospital bed, far from home, with no familiar faces. But thanks to Steve, Carlo had someone to visit him. Someone who made sure he was not alone or forgotten. He had a friend.

Even after Carlo returned home, Stella Maris' support didn't stop. Steve still checks in on him from the UK, and a Stella Maris chaplain in the Philippines is making sure he gets the care he needs there.

This is just one story. Over the past year, Stella Maris supported more than 100,000 seafarers in UK ports, and many more worldwide. But the need is growing. More crews are being abandoned. Many seafarers still aren't allowed shore leave. Mental health is worsening.

In this Jubilee Year, we are invited to be 'Pilgrims of Hope', people who bring light into dark places and show mercy in action. That is exactly what your support of Stella Maris does. It brings hope to those who feel forgotten. It reminds them they are not alone.

That's why your support this Sea Sunday matters so much. Your donations allow Stella Maris to be there for people like Carlo when they need it most.

Thank you Fr_____ for your invitation to speak here today. Thank you all for your time and may God bless your kindness and generosity.

(Seafarer name changed to protect identity)

> 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 6th & 13th 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 13th 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 20th 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 hand them out as people arrive
- Check that the reader, volunteer or Parish Priest has the appeal text to read towards 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, 13th July 2025 (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

However you choose to return your collection, please send us the tear-off paying-in slip provided on the cover letter, the feedback form on the back of the pack, and 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 2025 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: _____