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 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.

Page

3 Sea Sunday gospel meditation
4 Prayers of intercession
5 Children's liturgy
6 Newsletter texts
Twitter texts
7 Sea Sunday appeal talk
8 Where does your money go?
8 Leaving a legacy to AoS
9 Parish check list
10 Information for collection counters
11 Feedback form
12 Children's liturgy colouring picture

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

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Company Registration no. 3320318 Registered Charity in England and Wales no. 1069833 Registered Charity in Scotland no. SC043085

Gospel reading

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Meditation

'Jesus is unwelcome' . Hopefully our familiarity with this Gospel passage doesn't make it any less shocking than it is. Jesus's own town shuns him, despises him. Every day our news contains stories of people who are shunned and more often, just plain ignored. Their situation is too complicated to understand and we are too busy with our lives. This is sad. Loneliness is becoming a hallmark of our times.

And yet for followers of Jesus, we are called and empowered by Him to accept those who are otherwise side-lined. Welcoming those in need, we welcome Jesus himself. On Sea Sunday in our prayer and support we remember the thousands of seafarers who call at our ports, strangers in our midst. We also remember the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, which on behalf of the Catholic community welcome them. In January the Apostleship of the Sea in Plymouth welcomed a seafarer who was alone and thousands of miles from home. He was a Burmese seafarer who was in the local hospital recovering from a head wound and fractured ribs. The Apostleship of the Sea visited him, gave him toiletries and phone cards so he could contact his family on the other side of the world.

Sea Sunday is the day our parishes support the Apostleship of the Sea which welcomes seafarers who would otherwise be ignored, shunned and unwelcome.

Prayers of intercession

CELEBRANT'S INTRODUCTION

Having welcomed the Word of God in faith, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer intentions

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 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 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, Jesus is not welcomed by the people of his own town, they ignore him? Ask the children to share a time when they saw someone being ignored (someone at school, a poor person on the street).
- 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 today is 'Sea Sunday', a day when we remember seafarers who can be on a ship for weeks or months, away from their family and children.
- Ask the children how they would feel if they didn't see their family or friends for that length of time.
- Ask the children why ships and seafarers are important to us? (they bring us nearly everything we use: clothes, cars, petrol, toys, computers, chocolate!) Explain that many of the items we buy in shops are brought to us by ships. The people who sail and work on ships are called seafarers.
- Explain to the children that their job from God, their mission is to welcome those close to them; a lonely child at school, their brothers and sisters. In the Church the Apostleship of the Sea has people who visit seafarers when their ship is in port. What kind of help do the children think seafarers might need? (someone to talk to if they are sad, help to telephone their family so they can speak to their children, someone to take them to Mass)
- What might seafarers pray to Jesus for? Mention loneliness, missing their families and friends, a safe voyage, being scared of storms.
- The children can colour the colouring page 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 you can give to each child.

Newsletter texts

For insertion in newsletter distributed the week before Sea Sunday: Sunday 1st 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 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 8th 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 Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), 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/evening. My name is _____ and I am here to speak to you about the work of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Most of us only see ships when we are on holiday; ferries or perhaps cruise ships. These can be luxurious and spacious, with onboard cinemas, shops and casinos. They carry thousands of passengers and hundreds of crew. But the majority of ships are cargo ships and are not at all like this. They are anything but luxurious. The ships may be large but the crew quarters are generally small and cramped and quite basic. They manage with small numbers of crew to save money. Some of the ships that come to British ports have a crew of between six and nine seafarers; this is the bare minimum to cover a 24-hour shift.

Seafarers are extremely important to this country. We don't usually see it but 95% of everything we use, comes in by ship. That's the food we eat, the clothes we wear, our phones, our cars, just about everything.

Andrew Campbell a volunteer ship visitor for the Apostleship of the Sea in the Port of Bristol, Avonmouth shared this story of his ministry:

'Just before Christmas I was visiting a ship in Avonmouth. It was loading scrap metal. It was quite a large ship, two or three times as big as this church. I talked to the Filipino captain and some of the crew. The ship was due to spend three days in port. I handed over some shoe boxes, filled with donated gifts, that I had brought with me. They stored them away, ready to give out on Christmas day, when they would be at sea.

I was struck by how poor and needy the crew seemed and how grateful they were for those boxes. They were not warmly dressed for our winter. Being Filipino, they were all Catholic and asked about going to Mass. I contacted the Apostleship of the Sea Port chaplain. He arranged to say a Christmas Mass on board a neighbouring French ship. This had a large mess room, big enough for both crews. The ship sailed for Seville on 23rd December.

About three weeks later the AoS port chaplain received a phone call from the Filipino captain. His ship was drifting in the Atlantic, off the coast of Spain. They had cut the engines to save fuel. They were short of food and water and had basically been abandoned by the ship's owners, who had gone bankrupt. They had not been paid for more than three months. The captain had kept the chaplain's telephone number and had rung him from the ship, to see if he could help.'

The Apostleship of the Sea in Great Britain contacted colleagues in Spain who liaised with the Spanish Authorities who allowed the ship to dock and the ship's crew were looked after. Eventually they were all repatriated to the Philippines.'

This is NOT an unusual story. The Apostleship of the Sea is in all the major ports, not only here in the Great Britain but throughout the world. AoS is often called on to give similar help to seafarers.

A seafarers pay is very low by UK standards. They work shifts, seven days a week, for up to nine months. They send most of their money home to support their families. They do get rest time but can you imagine working everyday, without a weekend or day off, for nine months? And all this time, they are far away from their family and loved ones.

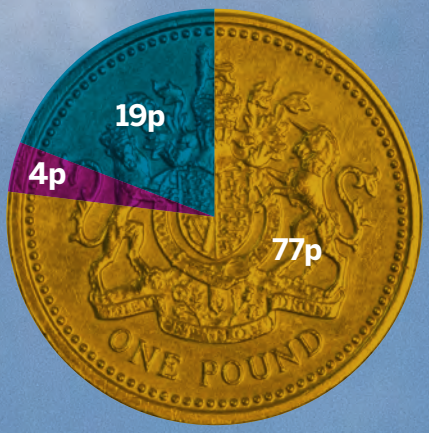
A ship visit from the Apostleship of the Sea means seeing a friendly face, someone to talk to. The Apostleship of the Sea provides seafarers with help to get ashore to the local shops, we give them warm clothing in the winter, faith resources to sustain their faith and, when possible, we help them get to Mass.

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:

- **77p** directly on seafarers' welfare.
- **4p** on governance and administration.
- **19p** on generating more 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 legacy officer Alastair Emblem. 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
alastair@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

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 2018. 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, 8th July 2018 (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
The Co-Operative Bank
City Office
80 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3NJ

Sort Code: 08 02 28
Account No: 68 49 98 73

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 2018 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?

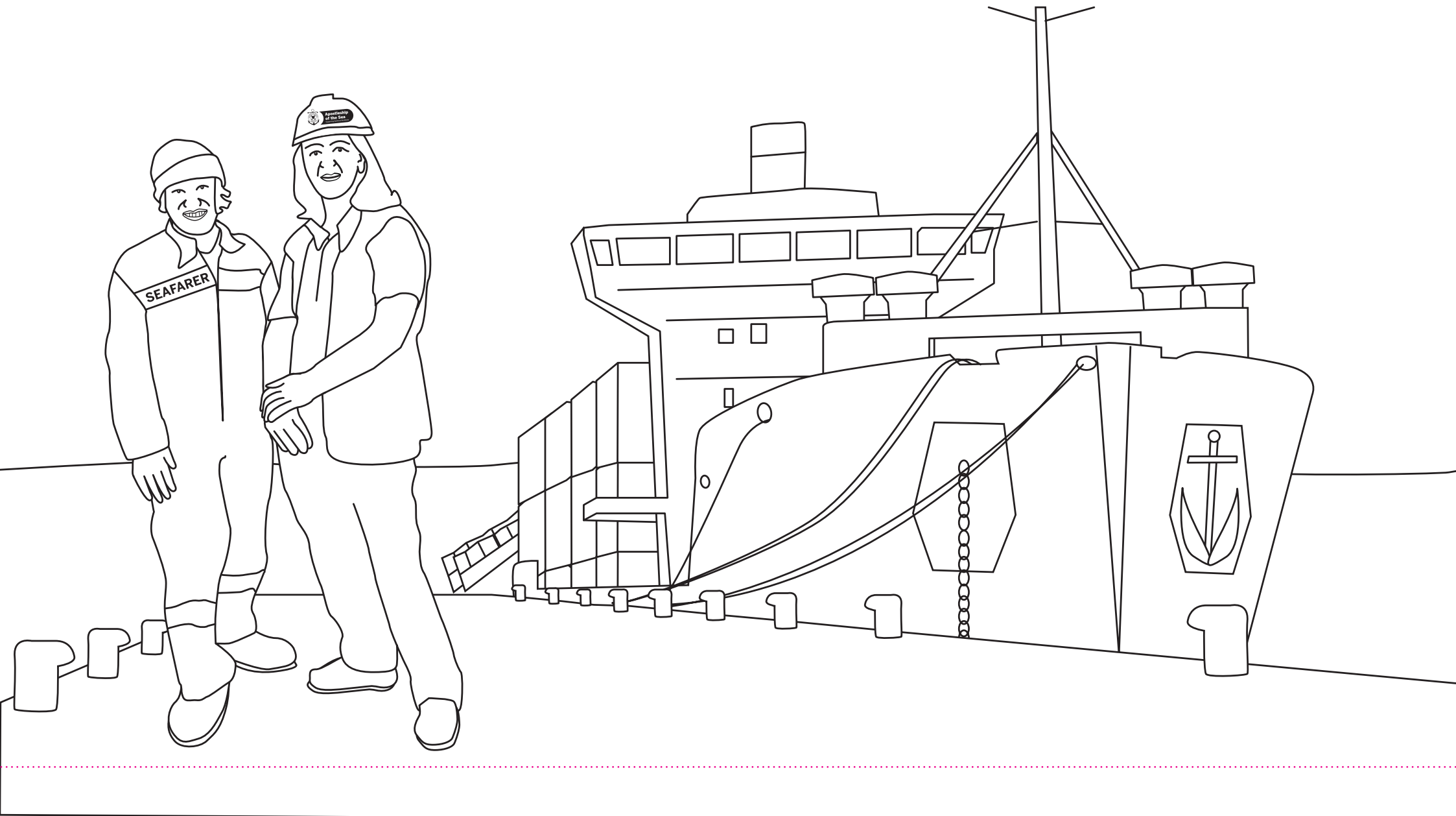
Is there someone in your parish who could be the AoS Parish Contact? Perhaps they have a connection with shipping or the sea? Please suggest a parishioner (with their agreement) who is willing to take on this role and let us have their contact details below.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Children's liturgy

Apostleship of the Sea
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide