



Caring for seafarers  
around the world



## Sea Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Rector,

Thank you for your valuable time. Please find enclosed some resources you might find helpful if you are intending to celebrate Sea Sunday this year. Importantly I am asking for your help, even if you are not going to celebrate Sea Sunday.

The Newcastle Seafarers Centre is in significant financial need and we are really hoping that your generosity will enable us to continue to serve the 40,000 sailors who come into Newcastle, as well as those who work around the Port.

Donations to us are credited as a part of your total giving to mission within the Diocese. So any money given to us becomes a part of your overall commitment to the missional work of the Church. Can you please consider handing out the enclosed envelopes in your parish, or have a retiring collection or suggesting us as your parish's mission project? We truly are reaching out, sharing the Gospel and caring for the lost, lonely and least.

Thank you for your prayers and be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Christopher Bird  
Chair of the Mission to Seafarers Newcastle.



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# Sea Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parish Priest,

Thank you for your valuable time. Please find enclosed some resources you might find helpful if you are intending to celebrate Sea Sunday this year.

Thank you for your prayers and be assured of my prayers.

God bless,

Fr. Stefan Sapun.  
Newcastle Seafarers Centre.

## **Suggested intercessions for Sea Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

*Response to each petition can according to local tradition or one of the following:*  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us thank God who gives us all things, for the wonders of the earth and for its resources; for water, for coal and oil, and for minerals that come from around the world. We pray for those who work in dangerous occupations to bring us the fruits of the earth, and who help to make our lives more comfortable. May we care for creation in all its forms.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us thank God, for all who work in the shipping industry, for those willing to leave their friends and families to sail the seas in dangerous and lonely conditions, in order to bring us all the things we need to live, as well as to take our products to countries throughout the world. We pray for seafarers and their families, for dockers, for those who run ports, for tug crews, and for all who support the shipping industry in any way. May we remember to care for them as they continue to work for us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us thank God, for Christians throughout the world, and especially for all who sail the seas. We remember for those who must work on a Sunday, and who may not see a church or chapel for months. We thank God for Chapels run for Seafarers and we pray for the work of port chaplains and volunteers who support seafarers through their time, fundraising, and prayer.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those seafarers who are sick or sad, for those in hospital, and for those who wait patiently in prison, often through no fault of their own. Give to them the light of hope that Christ is with them, and may we in turn continue to do all that we can to uphold their cause in any way that is possible.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships and on whom we depend. Bless them and those who long for their safe return and bring us all to your Kingdom where there is no sorrow, no tears, but joy and life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

## **PRAYERS**

**For seafarers:** Lord God, who cares for all creation and in particular for all human life, we pray for those who sail the seas to bring us all kinds of food and goods on which we depend. May they be given courage when they are in danger; friendship when they are lonely; strength when they feel weary; and hope when they feel discouraged, so that they may return to loved ones with the knowledge of a good job done. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For The Mission to Seafarers in Newcastle:** Almighty God, you give us so much, life, love and laughter. You gave us your Son Jesus Christ to teach us about your Kingdom, about your love. Bless those who care for seafarers and their families. We ask your blessing on our Mission to Seafarers in Newcastle, bless the chaplain Garry Dodd, volunteers and supporters as they minister to people of all faiths and of none. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who himself called seafarers to help establish the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

**For the shipping industry** God our Father, bless all who work in the shipping industry, ship-owners, designers and builders, marine engineers and architects, shipping agents and insurers, cargo handlers, management and unions. We pray too for all who support seafarers through navigation, light, and buoyage systems, all rescue and emergency services. May each of us do all we can to repay seafarers for their sacrificial lives and work, showing them the love and care you show us in the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Guide and strengthen them and us by your Holy Spirit and bring us all to the joys of eternal life. Amen.

## **HYMNS**

Brother, sister let me serve you  
Eternal Father, strong to save  
Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round  
God who formed the mighty ocean\*  
O they that go to the sea in ships\*  
Let love be real  
Take my hands, Lord  
Will your anchor hold  
Strengthen for service, Lord  
When I needed a neighbour  
God who formed the mighty ocean,\*  
a new hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith.

## **READINGS**

For Sea Sunday  
Isaiah 55: 10-13  
Psalm 65: 1- 13  
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

## **FAMILY SERVICE SUGGESTIONS:**

### **Confession**

Let us be silent for a moment, as we remember before God, the things we have done wrong, and ask God's forgiveness.

### **Silence**

Almighty God, as we think back over the last week, on all the things we have said or done, help us to be honest with ourselves and with you. Forgive us when we have failed to love you, and put you first in our life; when we have not asked for your help and involvement in our day to day activities; and when we have not turned to you in prayer. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear us, and forgive us.**

Almighty God, forgive us when we have been selfish and put ourselves before others; when we have been unkind and hurt other people; when we have been stubborn and when we have only thought of our own wishes. Lord, in your mercy...

**Forgive us and help us**

Almighty God, forgive us when we have forgotten the people who bring us our food, clothes, toys, and all the other things which are important to our lives; when we have not thought of the seafarers who bring to our country all the things for our industries; and when we have ignored the men and women who take things from our own country to all the ports of the world. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear us, and forgive us.**

Almighty God, forgive us that we have not cared for the men and women who face danger and hardship at sea every day to allow us to live in the way that we do; for the seafarers who must leave their families for many months to keep our shops full of goods to sell. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear us, and forgive us.**

## **ABSOLUTION .....**

### **Collect for the day**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## PARISH MAGAZINE ARTICLE

### Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday is an ecumenical day to remember and pray for seafarers and the Church's ministry to them. It was first celebrated in 1975. This was when The Mission to Seafarers, which carries out the Anglican Church's ministry to seafarers, joined with the Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic) and the British and International Sailors' Society (interdenominational), to hold Sea Sunday on the same day.

**The Newcastle Seafarers Centre** maintains a tradition of caring for all seafarers. This Sea Sunday, let us share some of the things that happen here and around the world.

Piracy has been high on the news agenda in recent months and there are warnings that it is on the increase. At the end of 2008, the International Piracy Reporting Centre reported that there had been 49 ships hijacked with 889 seafarers being taken hostage. It is with the victims of piracy, as with all seafarers, that The Mission to Seafarers reaches out with a message of love and hope in a harsh and often inhospitable environment. In Newcastle we visit seafarers of all races and creeds on their ships, offering them welcome, counselling, transport, spiritual support, prayers and fight for their rights when they have been ignored.

During economic hardships, like the world is currently facing, seafarers become even more vulnerable. Imagine not being paid for seven months or after a year at sea, being abandoned in a lonely country with no money. Some seafarers are at the mercy of unforgiving captains, especially when out at sea. The Mission is there to help, but we need your help first.

It is the vision of our Newcastle Seafarers centre to offer a place where crews can relax away from their ships, find friendship and help with any problems they might have onboard or at home. We desire to provide high quality communication facilities through telephones and the internet for seafarers to contact their loved ones. We believe we should provide a warm place of hospitality and love so that we can share the Gospel. We need your support to make this a reality.

The work we do is vital but we can't do it without prayers and support. So, on Sea Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010, please remember seafarers and the Newcastle Mission to Seafarers centre as we continue to care for seafarers around the world. Thank you and may God deeply bless you.



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