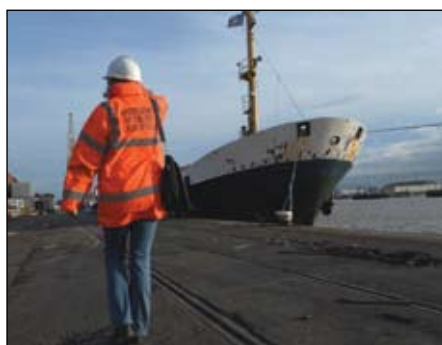


# Apostleship of the Sea



# Annual Review 2010

Registered Charity No: 1069833

Company Registration No: 3320318

# Introduction to Apostleship of the Sea

The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) is the outreach of the Catholic Church to seafarers. Founded in Scotland in 1922, and also known as Stella Maris internationally, it now has an active presence in over 100 countries worldwide under the overall co-ordination of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

In Great Britain, AoS is an official agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England, Wales & Scotland, under the patronage of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris. It is also an independent registered charity, and is wholly reliant on voluntary contributions to sustain its operations. It does not receive institutional funding from the Vatican, the Church or government.

Merchant ships transport 90% of world trade, but the conditions of seafarers are often hidden from us. Typically recruited from developing world countries where wage expectations are lower, seafarers spend nine to 12 months away from home at a time, away from family and loved ones and can suffer loneliness, depression, spiritual deprivation, dangerous working conditions and even exploitation.

AoS deploys port chaplains and ship visitors to welcome seafarers to our shores as brothers and sisters – regardless of race, nationality or creed (if any) and provides for their practical and pastoral needs. AoS also works ecumenically with other Christian maritime charities to provide drop-in seafarers' centres within ports, and places chaplains on cruise ships. It also works collaboratively with welfare organisations and industry bodies to lobby for seafarers' rights locally, nationally and internationally.



## Key Principles

### Mission

We reach out to seafarers in the name of Christ, regarding them as children of God and respecting their personal faith. We provide counsel and support to seafarers faced with personal crises, and Catholic seafarers are given the opportunity to receive the sacraments. Through Christian witness and personal contact, we work to nourish spiritual life onboard ship.

### Solidarity

We stand alongside seafarers, recognising them as our brothers and sisters in need. We campaign for their rights to be upheld, and their intrinsic human dignity to be acknowledged in an impersonal globalised industry.

### Welfare

Recognising that seafarers are men and women with human needs, we stand alongside them when they are abandoned, exploited, lonely and deprived. During the winter months we provide them with warm clothing, and help them to feel human again.

### Hospitality

We welcome seafarers to warm and friendly ecumenical centres where they can telephone or email friends and family back home. They can relax, read, pray and be sure of an attentive ear should they have any problems onboard ship.

## 2010 Key Facts

Ships visited	9,547
Seafarers assisted	190,940
Masses celebrated on ships	316
AoS port chaplains	13
Ship Visiting volunteers	103
Seafarers helped in hospital	20
Ships provided with transport for seafarers	1,349
Ships requesting phone or SIM cards	2,010
Seafarers helped with serious welfare problems	28
Ships requesting faith resources	1,456
Cruise chaplaincy days	207



*I thank the Lord for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, which for many years has offered human and spiritual support to those who live this difficult and challenging way of life.*

**Pope Benedict XVI**

# Our Work Throughout The Year

## January

### Tyne

During January AoS Tyne port chaplain Paul Atkinson (pictured) undertook 97 ship visits together with his three volunteers. As well as the usual tasks of providing transport for seafarers, mobile phone top ups, Paul also helped 20 seafarers transfer money back home and helped them with shopping in town. The crew of the Pride of Rotterdam were delighted that Paul was able to take 18 crew to play basketball at the local sports hall.



### Hull

AoS port chaplain Anne McLaren who works in Hull has acted on the unusual fact that Russian and Ukrainian seafarers make up 40% of those visiting the port, mainly because of the sort of cargo they are carrying such as coal and timber from the Baltic. Communication with seafarers can sometimes be difficult so when Anne heard that her sons were learning Russian at school, she approached their school and joined their classes. The teacher there is from the Ukraine, where they also speak Russian in addition to the official language of Ukrainian. In January Anne joined the school trip to the country to assist her language development and to learn more about the culture and traditions. Seafarers can often suffer from depression and loneliness, missing their own homes, families and way of life so it helps Anne enormously to understand their lifestyle. Anne's experience in the Ukraine enriched her culturally and spiritually and she hopes that her Russian language skills will enhance her ministry to seafarers in Hull.

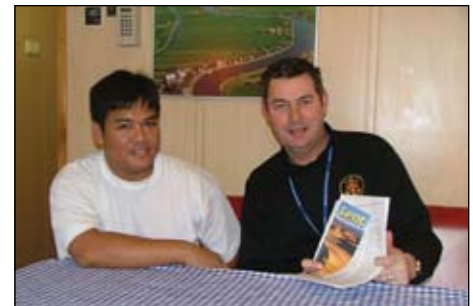
## February

### Troon

In addition to assisting seafarers, AoS port chaplains also serve the many fishermen from the Philippines, East Europe and increasingly from Ghana who work on vessels in Scotland. AoS Clyde and Firth of Forth chaplain Richard Haggarty, visits the port of Troon each Wednesday to open the centre and to meet fishermen. In 2010 the Filipino fishermen have been greatly concerned regarding their future following changes in visa regulations. AoS has been networking with a variety of agencies to keep its chaplains up to date with these changes and provide the fishermen with the latest information and support.

### Medway

With the season of Lent beginning this month, Deacon Daniel Mulcahy (pictured), AoS Medway port chaplain conducted a distribution of ashes service on the "Summer Wind" at Sheerness Docks on Ash Wednesday which was appreciated by the Filipino members of the crew. He also provided crew with prayer materials for lent.



### Immingham

Around midday on 27th January, AoS port chaplain, Fr Colum Kelly, received a call to attend an accident in one of the sheds on the dock. A forklift truck driver had been crushed under a series of six ton coils which had "dominoed" on top of him. The police were present at what was a potential crime scene but let him through to say a prayer where the man lay. It was a devastating scene where all involved with the deceased were anxious and frightened about what they were witnessing. A team mate had to use his forklift skill to lift the coils from the body so that he could be dragged from the pile.

His team (another three) sat in the side office and Fr Colum joined them for the rest of the afternoon until the health and safety executive were prepared to release his body to the coroner. They drank tea, cried, laughed and told stories of their colleague; they talked football, racing, evening plans, in fact anything that came into their minds.

One of the lessons from this is that the port chaplain is primarily serving seafarers but also the port community.

# March

## Medway

Seafarers mainly ask AoS port chaplains for help in phoning family back home and providing transport to get off the ship. Contrary to what one might think most seafarers don't have access onboard to the internet or television so are cut off from news of what is going on in their home countries. A number of Russian seafarers who were on the Medway in March, were understandably concerned about the suicide bombing on the 29th March in the Moscow underground and they wanted current news which the AoS port chaplain, Deacon Daniel Mulcahy was able to provide. Also this month a number of Filipino seafarers remarked on the fact that elections were being held in their country but as they will be away from home they are unable to vote. Another aspect of life as a seafarer.

## Hull

On the 20th March AoS ship visiting volunteers and parish contacts mainly from the parish of St John of Beverley arranged a collection and publicity outside their local Tesco store in Beverley. This parish and its parishioners continue to be fantastic supporters of the ministry of the Apostleship of the Sea and raised over £500 as a result of the collection.



# April

## London Marathon

On Sunday 25th April Gareth John, our brave marathon runner, ran well in the London Marathon and completed the course in 6 hours 28 minutes. Not only did he manage this immense physical task but he also raised a whopping £1,625 for Apostleship of the Sea.

## Hull

On the 14th April the Bishop of Middlesbrough, Bishop Terry Draney (pictured) visited the port of Hull and celebrated Mass on board the ferry the Pride of Rotterdam for the crew. It was a wonderful occasion. Through the year AoS Hull port chaplain, Anne McLaren, local priests and volunteers visit these ferries attending to the practical and pastoral needs of the crew.



## Macduff

In the far north of Scotland the ports of Buckie and Macduff in April benefited from regular ship visiting with a new AoS volunteer Tina Harris (pictured) who covers ports in that area. Tina visits both fishing and merchant ships. She is supported locally by the AoS port chaplain Deacon Brian Kilkerr.

# May

## Jersey

On the 15th May the Apostleship of the Sea team of supporters and ship visitors (pictured) undertook their now annual “Walk to France” organised in association with the Knights of St Columba to raise funds to support the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. This was the second time they have staged the event. The idea is to emulate a Walk to France, a distance of 14miles, by walking 18 round trips along St Catherine’s Breakwater. It was a great day and we are very grateful to Knights of St Columba for their continuing support of our ministry.



## Tyne

May was another varied month for Tyne AoS port chaplain, Paul Atkinson. Early in the month he was called by the ‘Komet III’ ....they had run out of rice. Paul promptly went to Tesco and bought the appropriate rice and delivered it to the ship. Needless to say the Filipino crew was very happy. Paul helped out that month with a service to scatter the ashes of a former seafarer from a pilot boat on the Tyne. Paul was also called by the seafarer’s trade union, the ITF, to help a Polish seafarer who wanted to check his employment contract and working conditions. Sadly, too Paul was called up to provide comfort to a young Filipina sailing on her first contract who was told by text message that her father had died suddenly. As well as spending time with her Paul arranged an emergency money transfer to help with funeral costs.

## Pembroke Dock

The team of AoS port chaplains grew this month with the addition of Fr Jaime (Jayjay) Bautista, as part-time chaplain for Pembroke Dock working alongside Fr Patrick Lombard. Fr Jayjay is a parish priest in Milford Haven and a young good-looking Filipino!! Fr Jayjay concentrates his ship visiting at the Chevron refinery and has benefited from

# June

## Portland

Portland coastguard called AoS volunteer ship visitor Cdr John Bywater (pictured) on 12th June to say that a Russian Engineer had been taken off a Polish car carrier ship and taken to Dorchester Hospital. John went to the hospital and found that the seafarer was carrying out a survey for a potential new owner. He spoke no English so John obtained the assistance of an interpreter. The seafarer had four broken ribs but there was nothing they could do for him and the hospital wished to discharge him. John had great difficulty finding anyone to take any responsibility for him and he had to make lengthy telephone calls abroad before he finally got a Dutch managing company to accept responsibility. John managed to arrange accommodation for him in Weymouth at a hotel and finally on Tuesday 15th June arranged transport to Heathrow airport and a flight to Moscow. Without John’s assistance, it is unclear what would have happened to him.



## Harwich

The bulk of the UK cruise ship season falls May to October and this year some 24 ships called at Harwich. Unfortunately, early in the season most of the ships were applying American security protocols which meant chaplains were not allowed to board. In June there was one ship which had a virus onboard so once the passengers disembarked a deep clean had to be carried out meaning very few crew were allowed time outside because of the extra work involved. AoS Harwich port chaplain Sr Marian Davey, was delighted to see a Peruvian seafarer who she had looked after in Hospital last year following an eye injury. It was great for them both to see each other again and for Sr Marian to know that his eyesight has not been affected by the injury.

# July

## Sea Sunday

In addition to the many parishes in England, Wales and Scotland who on the second Sunday of July remember seafarers and pray for the work of AoS, the House of Commons lent its support to the annual Sea Sunday appeal. MP's signed an 'Early Day Motion' commending the work of the AoS in caring for seafarers and encouraged all those in the shipping industry to adopt the minimum standard of care for seafarers as advised by the recent Maritime Labour Convention.



## Southampton

On 16th July AoS port chaplain Roger Stone was asked to go on a cruise ship following the suicide of a seafarer. Roger stayed onboard for 3 days, to the continent and back. He led a service (about 150 people came to the service at 11.15pm) and spent the following two days going around the ship meeting crew on a group basis and individually. He helped some crew members (one of whom was extremely frightened) to change their accommodation. Roger attended a de-briefing meeting at the cruise line HQ attended by senior personnel and was thanked for his help. Roger continued to visit the ship when it returned to Southampton, leading a communion service on 1st August.

## Felixstowe

A Filipino crewmember was badly injured following an accident onboard whilst his ship was coming alongside in Rotterdam. It involved the mooring rope getting caught up in the propeller and causing a lot of injuries to both legs. The shipping line put a counsellor onboard for a voyage so that the crew could unload their traumatic experience. Sr Marian Davey, AoS Felixstowe port chaplain has been supporting three of the crew on a regular basis since. All recovered quite well and the Captain arranged for them to visit their colleague in Hospital in Rotterdam as and when possible and bring him some food.

Sr Marian contacted the AoS port chaplain in Rotterdam, Fr Fritz Maas, to request a visit by him to the Hospital and maybe to engage the support of local Filipinos. Apparently he had been given to understand by the Agent that the injured seafarer was probably Church of Denmark so he hadn't followed it through until he got the full picture from Sr Marian over the phone. The crew since requested Mass onboard to give thanksgiving for the fact that their colleague is still alive.

Also in July, Sr Marian received a request from a marine medical advisor to give some support to a crew member who was rushed to hospital from a cruise ship in Harwich. She was taken to the Hospital where her problem was assessed, and she was later discharged to a hotel nearby. She was from Brazil but spoke very good English. As she only had dollars Sr Marian had to start by buying her some basic essentials including drinking water etc. Sr Marian left her a mobile phone with a small amount of credit. Her medical problem was finally resolved and she was able to re-join the Ship on its last call to Harwich having received a lot of care and attention.

# August

## Aberdeen

August started dramatically with a call to visit a Filipino seafarer, the Chief Engineer on a Dutch vessel who was in Aberdeen hospital awaiting brain surgery. His immediate need was an adaptor for his computer which AoS Aberdeen port chaplain Deacon Brian Kilkerr (pictured) obtained and delivered. The seafarer burst into tears when Brian entered his room - overcome with emotion which Brian was to see a lot of over the next week. A complex medical case which would incur substantial costs - who would pay - where should it take place - will I be taken home to die - were among the questions to be answered. A priest called with Brian the next day when he received the sacraments which were a boost to him and his wife when she heard of it. Later that day some Filipino ladies called with food and spread the word among their community for visits with Filipino food. By mid-week it was like Billy Bunters' den with empty food containers. He rallied but tears were never far away. His employers were positive in their response via their insurers who opted to take him home for treatment. At 6am the following Saturday the seafarer called to say good -bye : Brian went quickly to the hospital to see him depart with a doctor from the Netherlands who would be with him all the way to the Philippines to liaise with the medical staff there. The prognosis is not good, but Brian keeps in correspondence with his wife in a very uncertain future where Faith helps.



# September

## Tilbury

This month AoS was delighted to announce the appointment of Deacon Paul Glock as the new AoS Tilbury port chaplain. Paul had recently retired from working in Sheerness docks, having been employed in the Port Industry for 39 years. As a Permanent Deacon he has also worked as a Chaplain in the Prison Service for 16 years.

## Hull

On Friday 3rd September an epic venture to raise much needed funds for AoS 'Sea-Wheeling' was launched with a bang from the port of Hull. Lord Prescott attended the launch to show his support. The team of pedallers, led by AoS Trustee David Savage, were given a grand send-off also attended by the Lord Mayor of Hull, Fr Colum Kelly AoS port chaplain for Immingham, local TV and press, seafarers, AoS supporters and Anne McLaren AoS chaplain for Hull who organised a fantastic party. Lord Prescott joked at the send-off "I used to be known as 'two Jags'. I had a government car which was a Jag, I had my own old Jag; but what most people don't know is that Raleigh gave me a bicycle and it too was a 'Jaguar' so then I had three Jags!". The venture, which visited 60 ports around Great Britain raised a staggering £16,318.



## Papal visit

Many AoS supporters, volunteers and chaplains had the chance to participate in the various meetings, celebrations and liturgies of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Great Britain in September. Fr Patsy Foley, former AoS port chaplain in Tilbury and Southampton and Salvina Bartholomeusz (pictured) from the National Office carried the AoS flag at the opening procession at the celebration with the Holy Father in Hyde Park, which caught the attention of supporters new and old. A number of the Humber AoS volunteers attended the Beatification Mass of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman at Cofton Park in Birmingham.



AoS Hull port chaplain, Anne McLaren, was touched by a quote from newly Blessed John Henry Newman about service which reflected the ministry of the Apostleship of the Sea. Newman spoke about "a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons" Anne noted how we as chaplains, volunteers and seafarers are all linked to each other each and every day as we go about our work and what a great privilege it is to be part of this.



## Tees

The Captain of the Maersk Lancer called AoS Tees port chaplain, Tony McAvoy, to see if he would be interested in taking possession of a rowing machine which the ship no longer needed. Having seen this impressive piece of kit Tony readily agreed to take it and placed it at the seafarers' centre which already had an exercise bicycle. Later in the month, during a ship visit to the 'Wilson Trent' at Hartlepool, AoS volunteer Ship Visitor, Brenda Bland, became aware that the newly assembled crew were looking for exercise equipment and so Tony arranged transport of the items the 25 miles or so to Hartlepool where the crewmembers were delighted to receive them.

# October

## Glasgow

This year on 19th and 20th October, representatives of AoS from eleven European countries and a few from further afield met in Glasgow, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the AoS and to look to what the future will bring. Martin Foley, National Director, said “It was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the different national AoS organisations and consider how we can cooperate more closely for the benefit of seafarers. We were also given the opportunity to reflect upon and learn from our history in meeting the challenges of today.” The highlight of the conference was a Mass celebrated in St. Aloysius’ Glasgow, which saw the original formation of the AoS. Bishop Peter Moran Bishop-Promoter (pictured) of the AoS, presided and preached at the parish evening Mass. He was assisted by Deacon Brian Kilkerr, AoS chaplain for the North-East of Scotland. Local volunteers and supporters of AoS came along to show their support and all moved to an informal reception after the Mass. Each year in Scotland seafarers make around one hundred thousand calls at ports large or small, so it was hugely fitting that this gathering took place there.



## Bulk Shipping conference

AoS Director of Development John Green was invited to chair a session and present to the annual Dry Bulk Shipping Conference in London. He used the opportunity to highlight to key opinion formers in this sector the effect of the recession on the lives of seafarers and the ministry of AoS in caring for crew members where the work is hard and difficult.

## Plymouth

The local AoS team’s work was well and truly put to the test mid-October when 98 crew members from the stricken fish factory ship ‘Athena’ were transferred to a Plymouth hotel. The crew was mainly Chinese with some Russian, Peruvian and Swedish seafarers. The company kitted them out courtesy of Primark. However they were pleased to see some friendly faces even though the majority of the fishermen were Chinese and could not speak any English. Some of the crew required lifts to church, the ladies appreciated some toiletries. They also took a trip to the Aquarium! All crew have now been repatriated.



# November

## Bristol

Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton visited the port of Bristol this month in his capacity as Chairman of the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He was hosted by our National Director, Martin Foley and AoS port chaplain Fr Noel Mullen. The Bishop paid a visit to the crew of a car carrying ship, 'Queen Sapphire'. Fourteen Filipino seafarers met with him during a break in their work routine. There are 21 crew members in the vessel, which had earlier arrived after a lengthy passage from Japan with 5,000 cars. They had encountered stormy weather on the journey and were glad to be in port. Before going to phone home and enjoy a couple of hours shoretime respite, they were delighted to welcome the Bishop aboard their ship. They told him about their appreciation of all the support they receive from Stella Maris (AoS) during the lengthy periods of time which they spend away from home and families. The men were mostly on 10 month contracts, but one young sailor told the Bishop that he had spent the last two years continually at sea.



(Picture: Bishop Declan with the Filipino crew of the car carrier vessel. )

## Portland

On 4th November the coastguard alerted AoS port chaplain Deacon Roger Stone to the 'Atlas Star' which had been arrested and was at anchor in Portland Harbour. On 5th November AoS volunteer ship visitor Mark Kemmis-Betty and Roger went out to the ship on the port authority launch and spoke to all the crew, twelve in number. The Master and the crew had, via a Manchester-based barrister, petitioned for the arrest of the ship following non-payment of wages. The ship had been arrested for several weeks and the crew had been stuck on the ship. The AoS team gave them a phone card each and they were able to contact their families. Mark and Roger also bought them some DVDs and foodstuffs and kept in touch by email. Mark sent more provisions to them a few days later. Mark and Roger also arranged for an AoS volunteer ship visitor in Teignmouth to call the ship and speak to the Master in Russian. There was nothing more they needed although she sent some presents via Mark to them. The situation was resolved in the middle of November when their wages were paid and the crew were flown home in two tranches. Good work by the AoS teams.



## Southampton

On 29th November Roger visited a seafarer from Mumbai, who was in the infectious diseases ward at Southampton hospital. He had tuberculosis and was in hospital for 28 days. Roger gave him phone cards and the seafarer was also able to use Roger's portable AoS computer to access his emails which brought an enormous smile to his frightened face.

# December

## Christmas cruise chaplaincy

For some weeks over the Christmas season AoS deployed seven priests as cruise chaplains (pictured with a P& O cruise director) to minister to crew and passengers. Fr Ray O'Shea reported some 450 crew and passengers attending the Christmas Midnight Mass. As well as celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, officers on one vessel remarked on the benefit of chaplains in addressing tensions between some crew of different nationalities, something that had been quite difficult to do. Both crew and passengers were glad to have had chaplains on board.



## Tees & Hartlepool

During December The North East team supported a Filipino seafarer in hospital with appendicitis. Upon his discharge he was unable to travel home, so rather than stay in a local hotel, an AoS volunteer ship visitor, herself a Filipino and her husband (also an AoS ship visitor) invited him to stay with them. This meant the seafarer was able to converse with them in his own dialect and he could of course enjoy home cooked Filipino food! He was able to return home when he had completely recovered.

## Southampton

On 21 December, following a call from a cruise line, AoS Southampton port chaplain Roger Stone visited 14 Indian and 10 Filipino seafarers who were stranded in a hotel in Eastleigh, having missed their ship on 19th December. They were without money, one had lost his wallet and another luggage. Roger gave each of them a phone card and liaised with the company over providing for their welfare. On 22nd December Roger collected the 14 Indian seafarers from the hotel and took them to a local church where they were welcomed with drinks and light refreshments - and a few snowballs hurled by two old ladies who had just emerged from Mass! Roger later took them to Asda where he bought clothing for some of the seafarers and then out into the New Forest for the afternoon in the snow. The crew really enjoyed their time away from the hotel. On 25 December Roger visited the crew at the hotel and gave them some more Christmas presents – phone cards. Everyone opened their Christmas presents and the crew gave Roger Christmas cards and gifts. This was a truly humbling and emotional experience for Roger. The crew showed Roger the dreadful lunch they were given on Christmas Day which they were required to eat in the hotel foyer because the restaurant was full of people enjoying a sumptuous Christmas lunch, even though the crew were residents! On 26 December Roger went to the hotel to see the crew off on the coach to Gatwick for their flight to Malta where they were to rejoin the ship on 27th December.



## Immingham

The Bishop of Leeds, Bishop Arthur Roche, visited the port of Immingham on Tuesday 14th December to meet with Fr Colum Kelly, Apostleship of the Sea Immingham Port Chaplain, and also a priest of Leeds Diocese. Fr Colum took the chance to show the Bishop around his 'flock' amongst the ships in dock. During the visit, Bishop Arthur celebrated Mass on board the 'Faneromeni' and distributed Christmas presents to the crew. The presents are donated annually by the parishioners of the local Catholic churches, who understand the difficulties of life at sea for the modern seafarer. This particular crew will be at sea for Christmas but their presents will be a reminder of the kindness and generosity of the local people. The Bishop was deeply impressed by the welcome he received, he commented "I am delighted to witness, at first hand, the wonderful care for the seafarers, expressed through the ministry of the Church."

# Who's Who



**Chair of Trustees**  
Mr Eamonn Delaney



**Bishop Promoters**  
Bishop Tom Burns SM (Eng & Wales)  
Bishop Peter Moran (Scotland)



**National Director**  
Mr Martin Foley

## AoS GB Port Chaplains



North East Scotland  
Deacon Brian Kilkerr



Firth of Forth & Clyde  
Richard Haggarty



Blyth & Tyne  
Paul Atkinson



North East England  
Tony McAvoy



Hull & Goole  
Anne McLaren



Immingham & Trent  
Fr Colum Kelly



Haven Ports  
Sr Marian Davey



Tilbury  
Deacon Paul Glock



Medway Ports & Dover  
Deacon Daniel Mulcahy



Sussex & Hants  
Deacon Roger Stone



Plymouth & Teignmouth  
Ann Donnelly



Bristol Channel  
Fr Noel Mullin



Pembroke Dock  
Fr Jayjay Bautista