

## Press release

# The Apostleship of the Sea (Great Britain)



## English and Scottish bishops urge support for Sea Sunday

**The Bishop of the Forces and the Bishop of Aberdeen have issued their joint message for Sea Sunday on 13<sup>th</sup> July urging all to support the vital work of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS).**

In their message, Bishop of the Forces Tom Burns and Bishop Peter Moran of Aberdeen note that “hundreds of thousands of seafarers are working on ships crossing vast expanses of ocean to bring us the goods we use and consume every day. Many of these seafarers are feeling lonely, tired and spiritually deprived. Typically recruited from poorer countries where wages are lower, seafarers spend up to 12 months at a time away from wives, sons, daughters and friends on the high seas. They are enduring dangerous working conditions and even exploitation.”

The bishops praise the work of the Apostleship of the Sea’s port chaplains and ship visitors who welcome vulnerable seafarers to our shores as brothers and sisters regardless of their race, nationality or creed (if any), and provide for their pastoral and practical needs.

They write, “However far our parish communities may be from the sea, each of us benefits from the work of seafarers and each of us has a part to play in supporting the Church’s outreach to seafarers. This is why, as bishops and promoters of the work of AOS, we strongly encourage you to pray for seafarers and those who minister to them on your behalf. We also encourage you to support AOS financially, as far as you are able, and especially today on Sea Sunday.”



*'In solidarity with the People of the Sea'. Richard Withers Port Chaplain, Cardiff and Newport, with a visiting seafarer.*

### **Further information for editors**

The Apostleship of the Sea is the official maritime welfare and mission agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain, and a registered charity wholly reliant on voluntary contributions to sustain its ministry.

Rt Rev Tom M Burns SM, Bishop in Ordinary to Her Majesty's Forces, and Rt Rev Peter A Moran, Bishop of Aberdeen, serve as the Apostleship of the Sea's Bishop Promoters for each of the two Bishops' Conference in Britain.

The full text of the Bishops' message, further information and photos are available by emailing [info@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:info@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)

**More information about AOS can be found on the website at** [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)