And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?’ He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have answered right, do this and life is yours.’ But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ In answer Jesus said, ‘A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. Then he lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, “Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.” Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits’ hands?’ He replied, ‘The one who showed pity towards him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go, and do the same yourself.’

So who is our neighbour? Our neighbour doesn’t 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 tens of thousands of miles away. They don’t know the locals. Often they don’t speak the language. And they don’t know how to do many of the things that we take for granted where we live. Where can I find a shop where I can buy batteries? How do I get there? Where can I access the internet to contact my family? Where is the nearest church?

It’s the stranger that Apostleship of the Sea port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors are there to help when they go on board a ship. Like the Samaritan in the gospel, they are concerned for the welfare of those they meet.

The help they give might include providing a mobile phone top-up card, warm clothes in the winter, or arranging for seafarers to attend Mass. At other times, it might mean helping a seafarer resolve an issue with his employer over pay or working conditions.

The Gospel calls us all to help the stranger. Apostleship of the Sea chaplains and ship visitors do this in ports around the country. We can do it where we live, by supporting Sea Sunday.
In the gospel reading, who is doing the will of God and how? Ask the children to name someone they know who shows care for others.

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 seafarers can be on a ship for weeks or months. Ask the children how they would feel if they didn't see their family or friends for that length of time.

Ask the children what kind of things cargo ships might carry. Explain that many of the items we buy in shops are brought to us by ships.

Apostleship of the Sea chaplains visit seafarers when they are in port. What kind of help do the children think seafarers might need?

What might seafarers pray to Jesus for? Mention loneliness, missing their families and friends, a safe voyage, being scared of storms or pirates.

PRIEST
Today is Sea Sunday, when we think about those who work at sea, let us turn in prayer to God, our loving Father.

READER
We pray for the seafarers of the world. We ask Our Lady Star of the Sea to protect them on their voyages.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

We pray for the families of seafarers and ask God to give them comfort when their loved one is away at sea.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

We pray for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. We ask God to give its chaplains and ship visitors the grace to be the light of Christ to those they meet.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

We pray for ourselves, that we may be good neighbours to those who work at sea, through our support for Sea Sunday.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

In this Year of Mercy, we ask God to strengthen and inspire Pope Francis as he proclaims the Gospel message of peace, love and justice.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

We pray for those who are sick. And we ask that they may experience God’s healing presence.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

We remember all those who have died, especially those close to us.

Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

See KS2 & KS3 school resources at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/resources-schools
AoS makes things happen, says Cardinal Nichols


From meeting the guy on security as I board a ship to meeting the rest of the crew and officers I have no idea what will come up when I meet a crew, said Peter Barrigan, Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) port chaplain on the Tees.

Peter, who is also a permanent deacon, became an AoS port chaplain after spending 30 years working for a local brewery. He is supported by a team of volunteer ship visitors and a number of local parishes.

“If I ever make the mistake of saying to myself, ‘Ten minutes should do it on this ship,’ I’m always proved wrong,” he said. “One of the crew will ask, ‘Sir, can you help me? I need......’ And you are caught up in the needs of that one person or others on the ship.

“This is where the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) chaplains are so important, because they make these things happen. Otherwise seafarers might end up spending the few hours or days they are in a port in the same environment.”

Being a port chaplain is incredibly rewarding, he said. “I think it’s that we do a very simple task. We go on board to ask if we can help the seafarer with anything: it may be with phone cards to keep in touch with their family, or a lift into town for them to purchase some items.

“We also supply hats or gloves or other bits of clothing, rosaries or prayer cards, or help with getting to Mass, the temple, or to a mosque.”

“Seafarers often want to talk about their families and we are in a very privileged position of being there to listen and share in their lives for a brief time. It’s a very simple task and the thanks we receive from the seafarers for the visit is humbling. As you leave you will often hear, ‘Thank you for your visit. I often think I’ve done little but whatever we do is appreciated.’”

What impresses Peter about many of the seafarers he meets is their faith. “When you see the crew taking part in the Mass and the reverence with which they receive Holy Communion it makes me realise how lucky I am to be able to get to Mass any day of the week.”

Cardinal Nichols had gone to Tilbury to see first hand the work of AoS and meet its port chaplain there, Wojciech Holub.

Wearing a high-vis jacket and a hard hat, Cardinal Nichols met a number of seafarers, most of them working nine-month contracts on ships, which means they see little of their families.

When he went on to the bridge of a large ship unloading cars, the captain asked him to bless rosaries, prayer cards and booklets that had been placed beside a candle on a small table.

“To see the men who work on these huge ships in a way I’ve never done before is really very impressive. I appreciate their professionalism and dedication and the sacrifices they make to support their families,” said Cardinal Nichols.
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.

AoS in South Africa

AoS provides chaplains in ports around the world. Its international nature is illustrated by AoS in Great Britain teaming up with AoS in South Africa to help it develop its network of ship visitors.
AoS has been serving seafarers in South Africa since the early 1930s. It works in three ports, Durban, Cape Town, and Port Elizabeth, and is planning to establish a presence in Saldana Bay, a port that contains a fish factory and a direct rail link to local mines.
Fr Herman Giraldo, the AoS chaplain to the port of Durban, also runs two parishes and is director of a children’s orphanage. He hopes to go to the Philippines to learn Tagalog to help him communicate better with Filipino seafarers.
Elsewhere, in Cape Town AoS ship visitor Nick Barends (pictured) likes to give seafarers a break from their ships by taking them in the mini bus to see local vineyards and olive farms.

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Information for collection counters

Please take up the second collection in support of the Apostleship of the Sea on Sea Sunday, 10th July 2016 (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 (if you used them) 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. A Freepost envelope for the cheque and Gift Aid envelopes and your completed return form has been included in this pack.

Please note our Freepost addresses, for returns from England & Wales:
Freepost RTKT-KCYH-BBYA
Apostleship of the Sea
39 Eccleston Square
LONDON
SW1V 1BX

for returns from Scotland:
Apostleship of the Sea
Freepost
Admail ADM4234
GLASGOW
G1 2ZX

Please send money directly to our AoS offices in England or Scotland.

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.

Our Sea Sunday Donation

Name of parish priest/parish contact:
Name of parish:
Diocese:
Address:

Telephone:
Email:
Parish website:

☐ We enclose a cheque for £ [ ] from our 2016 Sea Sunday collection
☐ We enclose any completed Gift Aid envelopes

Your feedback

We welcome your feedback. Please use the space below. Many thanks.

Comments/feedback

Does your parish have an AoS Parish Contact?

To improve our relationship with parishes, we aim to have an AoS Parish Contact in every parish in the UK. If your parish does not already have an AoS Parish Contact, we would very much appreciate if you could suggest a parishioner (with their agreement) who is willing to take on this role and let us have their contact details below. Thank you.

Name:
Address:

Telephone:
Email:

Thank you for your help.
Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is _________________ and I am a ________________ (parish contact) for Apostleship of the Sea.

You might never have met a seafarer, but they have a big impact on your lives. Your cooker at home, the oranges you buy in the supermarket, and the petrol you put in your car – all of these have been brought to this country by ship. In fact 95% of everything we use comes to us by sea. Seafarers do so much for you: how can you be a good neighbour to them?

On your behalf, the Apostleship of the Sea carries out many small acts of kindness – works of mercy – every day, to help make a difference to the lives of seafarers. The following examples show how the Apostleship of the Sea in ports and on cruise ships, makes a big difference in seafarers’ lives.

When Steve Willows, the port chaplain in Immingham, heard that a cargo ship had been detained and the Turkish crew had not been paid for three months, he went on board to see if he could help in any way.

Understandably the crew were frustrated and angry. Most of those who go to sea do so because it’s the best way to earn money to support their families back home. Because the crew had not been paid, their families had received no money for three months.

Steve listened to the concerns of the crew, brought them newspapers, and gave them his contact details. The captain thanked him. “All I did was provide a sympathetic ear” said Steve. It was a small gesture, but it made a big difference.

Being a seafarer is one of the world’s most dangerous occupations. A Filipino seafarer on a ship in Felixstowe last year fell overboard. Luckily his colleagues spotted him in the water. They threw him a lifebuoy and he was able to make it to the shore.

The seafarer sustained some injuries and was taken to the local hospital, where Apostleship of the Sea port chaplain Sister Marian Davey visited him.

She spoke with his wife and daughter back home in the Philippines and kept them updated on his progress. She also liaised with the shipping company about his repatriation back home and provided him with a little spending money and some fresh clothing for the journey.

Again, small gestures, but important ones.

Last year, Father Hugh Allen served as an Apostleship of the Sea chaplain on the Queen Mary 2 cruise ship, sailing from Southampton to New York and Canada.

With restaurants, theatres and shops, these cruise ships are like a small town, with a crew of around one thousand. And it is the crew that a chaplain is primarily there for.

After the cruise, Father Hugh said, “The crew were really welcoming and very happy to see a priest. They always seemed so grateful for someone to talk to and pray with. Following the crew Mass, I would often take Holy Communion to crew who were working and unable to get to Mass.”

Through all these small gestures, as well as dealing with major tragedies, Apostleship of the Sea has been acting as a good neighbour to seafarers on your behalf. They rely on the support of Catholic parishes to continue this vital work. Today’s collection is your opportunity to make a small gesture that will make a big difference to the life of seafarers.

Please also keep them in your prayers, and consider leaving a gift in your Will.

If you are a tax payer do also complete a gift aid envelope so that the charity can reclaim tax on this gift.