

> Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2026



Good morning/afternoon/evening everyone

My name is _____ and I am here on behalf of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church, which you may also know as the Apostleship of the Sea.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your generosity each year during Sea Sunday. Your donations reach thousands of seafarers and fishers. Without it, Stella Maris simply couldn't do this vital work.

Most of us will go home today, sit at a table, and speak to the people we love.

For thousands of seafarers, that simple moment doesn't exist.

They can spend months at sea, moving from port to port, often unable to step ashore. Communication with home is limited. When something goes wrong, they are far from everything and everyone familiar.

And today, many seafarers are working in even more difficult circumstances, travelling through areas of conflict and instability like the Straits of Hormuz and the Red and Black Sea, facing risks most of us will never experience.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of seed being sown generously. The work of Stella Maris is like that sowing. Each visit, each conversation is a seed planted in a life that is often hard, isolated, and unseen. You may never meet the people who benefit, but your support helps that seed take root.

I'd like to tell you about a seafarer called Renars.

Renars was taken suddenly ill while working on board. He was rushed to hospital in a foreign country, where he was told he needed an urgent heart transplant. He was alone. His family were thousands of miles away, frightened and unsure if they would see him again. Luckily a Stella Maris chaplain was there and they began visiting Renars every day.

They sat with him through long, uncertain hours. They prayed with him. They helped him understand what was happening and reassured him that he was not facing this alone. Just as importantly, they supported his family from a distance, keeping them informed and offering comfort.

Those daily visits became a lifeline. Renars later said that the presence of the chaplains that gave him hope, the sense that someone was walking this road with him.

This is just one story. Over the past year, Stella Maris supported more than 100,000 seafarers in UK ports, and many more worldwide. This is what your support makes possible.

Every donation helps Stella Maris chaplains be there, on ships, in ports, and in hospitals. Offering care, friendship, and hope to people who would otherwise be alone.

Thank you Fr_____ for your invitation to speak here today. Thank you all for your time and may God bless your kindness and generosity.