



STELLA MARIS



Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea
Supporting seafarers worldwide

Annual review 2019

“Your ministry to sailors
and fishermen is, above
all, one of listening to
them and to their material
and spiritual needs.”

Pope Francis, addressing Stella Maris
European, national directors and
chaplains in June 2019





View from the Bridge

What a year! In January, we held a well attended Parliamentary event for MPs and shipping industry leaders. In June, we received direct support and affirmation from Pope Francis during a Papal Audience. And in September we opened a new welfare centre for seafarers in Southampton.

On the horizon are more significant events. We officially change our name from Apostleship of the Sea to Stella Maris in 2020, to bring us in line with the global network and make us more recognisable to seafarers and fishermen. And we'll celebrate a century of care for seafarers and their families at our World Congress in Glasgow, in September.

These are the big markers on the journey. But more important is the simple care and compassion shown to more than 177,848 seafarers visiting our shores every day. What really matters is being the friend in port, the arm around the shoulder, the warm welcome to seafarers and fishermen. That kindness really changes lives.

None of it would be possible without the generosity of our supporters, who donated more than £1.49m in 2019. I'm so grateful. Thank you for coming on board for this amazing journey, and for being with us as we set a course for another 100 years of ministry.

Martin Foley, Chief Executive Officer



Making a real difference

“Thank you for visiting our ship and giving us somebody to talk to. With loneliness and boredom aboard, the chaplains and volunteers lift our spirits and share stories. God bless you more!”

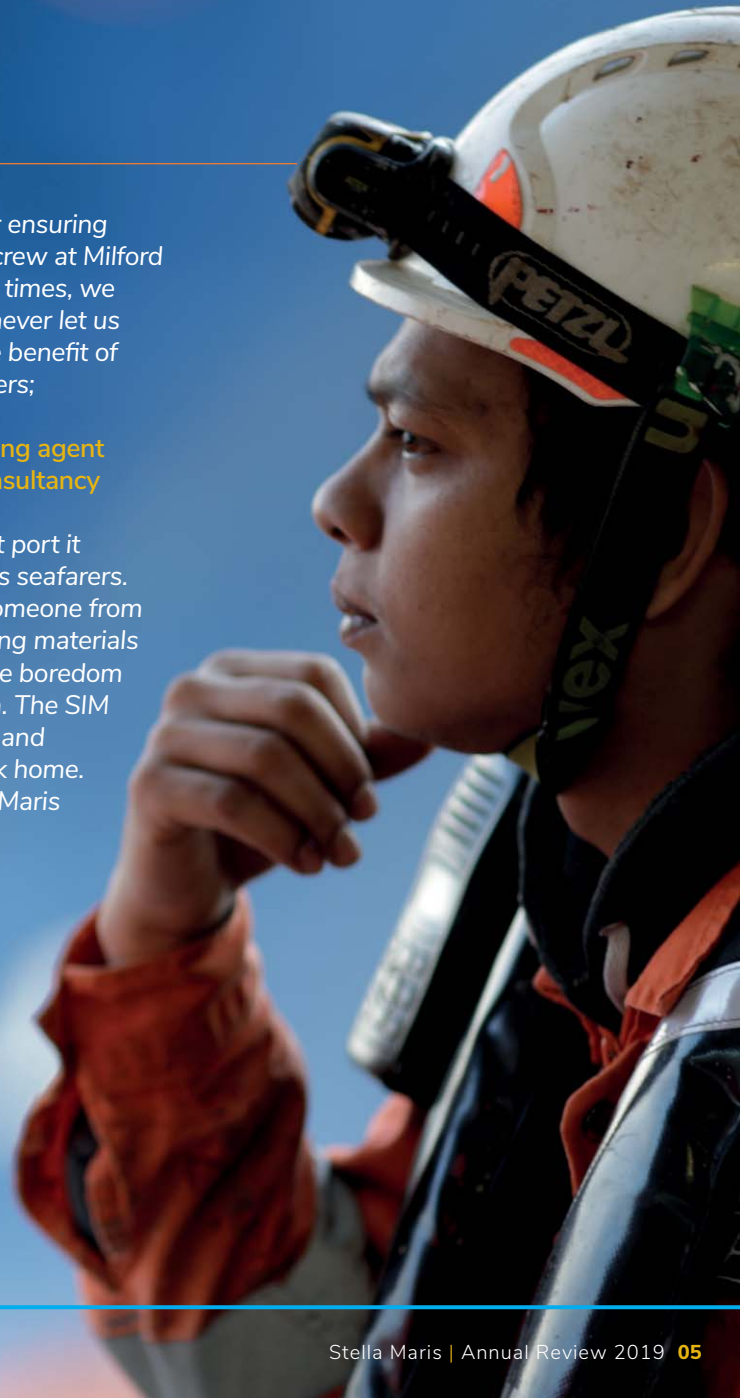
Seafarer Donovan Sarmiento Nepomuceno

“It’s hard enough being away from our families for such a long time without having to endure extra hardship. Now we know that we are kitted out to survive, we will never forget our visit to Scotland and the generosity of this wonderful charity.”

Filipino seafarer who was given warm clothes when he arrived in port in Scotland

“A heartfelt thank you to chaplains and volunteers for the services Stella Maris offers us sailors. We were lucky to have a chaplain take us ashore and guide us with his friendly demeanour. Thank you from all the guys onboard.”

Seafarer Rohit Nazareth



“Thank you to Stella Maris for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of crew at Milford Haven and Pembroke. Many times, we have called you and you’ve never let us down. I’ve regularly seen the benefit of your support to crew members; it’s invaluable!”

Emma Jarvis Boulton, shipping agent with EMB Shipping and Consultancy

“When chaplains visit ships at port it eases a lot of worries from us seafarers. We usually ask, when will someone from Stella Maris arrive! The reading materials you provide us really ease the boredom and reconnect us to our faith. The SIM cards mean we can buy one and reconnect to loved ones back home. Thank you very much Stella Maris for the love and sacrifice.”

Seafarer Edgar Estrera



Everyday support for seafarers

For almost 100 years we've been extending the hand of friendship and welcoming seafarers to our shores.

Our chaplains and volunteers listen and chat, they offer lifts to the shops and bring free Wifi on board so seafarers can call home. Often, these simplest practical kindnesses make the greatest difference.



Ships visited in 2019



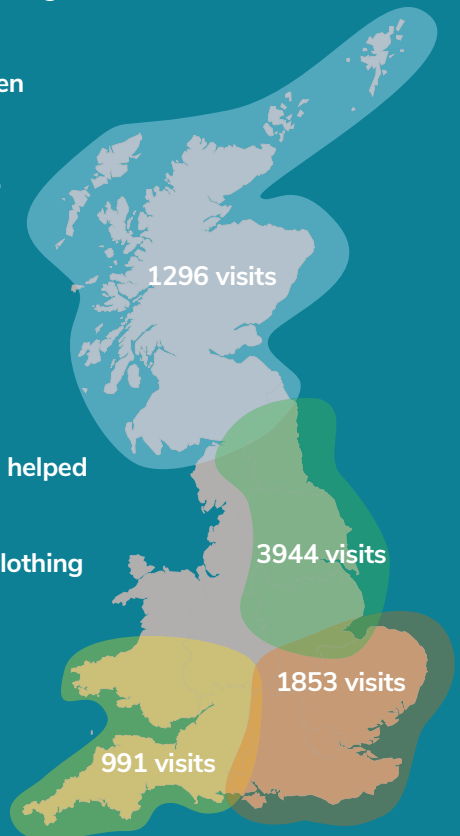
177,848 seafarers and fishermen helped



648 seafarers received donated clothing



2,158 seafarers provided with phone and internet





Making their vote count

Five Polish crew were stranded on a ship in Grimsby which had been detained for a month. But chaplain Steve Willows, who'd been visiting the men twice a week, wasn't going to let that stop them voting in their country's national elections. Steve spent an afternoon researching the issue – then drove the men to a ballot station in a church hall in Hull so they could cast their all-important vote.

Gifts for seafarers facing GB weather

Hats, warm clothes and blankets are handed out to seafarers who, coming from hotter parts of the world, find themselves ill-equipped to cope with the English weather.

These items are gratefully received. This blanket returned all the way home to the Philippines with seafarer Albert Lorete, who sent a picture to our chaplain showing his newborn baby cosily wrapped up.



Polish seafarers having voted in their election



Supporters helped provide bikes



A gift from a generous supporter...

Vital help in times of crisis

January 2019 saw the launch of our first Life at Sea report, and marked the start of greater collaboration than ever before between Stella Maris and the shipping industry.

As a result, our intervention in crisis situations almost doubled – from 45 incidents in 2017/18 to 80 in 2018/19.

Whether it was hospital visits, dealing with abandoned crews or helping resolve contract issues, we supported seafarers everywhere through some of the toughest times of their lives.



Support for crew after seafarer falls overboard

A crew was devastated after a Sri Lankan seafarer, who'd only just joined the ship and celebrated his 29th birthday on board, was lost at sea. Our chaplain, Fr Andrew Thavam, met the crew a day after the tragedy. He took the men off the ship to the seafarers' centre and offered counselling. *"They were visibly more relaxed and in better spirits when they returned to the vessel,"* said Fr Andrew.

Help for Syrian seafarers trapped in port

When heavy seas dislodged a ship's cargo, the crew were forced to divert to Falmouth for three weeks. But the ship became a prison for the nine Syrians on board, as they were unable to leave port due to immigration rules. Instead, our chaplain John Pinhay visited regularly, bringing hats, newspapers and chocolates. *"We shared stories, and we knew they appreciated our visits,"* said John.



Helping in the aftermath of a fight

After a fight broke out on a fishing vessel in the Seychelles, Stella Maris was called in to mediate. The drama occurred when the captain refused to let four fishermen leave, even though their contracts had expired and they were owed wages. National Director, Albert Napier, attended meetings to support the fishermen. *“Good teamwork between agencies resulted in a positive outcome,”* said Albert, *“and we went with the fishermen to the airport to board their flight home that same day.”*

Easing the stress of a broken dishwasher

It might seem trivial, but small things like a broken dishwasher can cause real stress. Chaplain Wojciech Holub visited a ship in Tilbury docks, and found an over-tired cook and a fed-up crew. They’d reported a broken dishwasher five times, but nothing was being done. Wojciech called our London office, who contacted the ship manager. Within a few weeks, a new dishwasher was delivered to the ship.

Faith on board

Long months at sea mean seafarers and fishermen rarely get to Mass – so chaplains and ship visitors make arrangements for this to happen on board whenever possible. We also provide faith resources, such as our Stella Maris magazine, prayer books and rosaries.

201 Masses celebrated onboard

2,724 faith resources distributed to seafarers

23,398 Free Stella Maris magazines available in 73 ports



*Support for
grieving crew*

Mass following a death at sea

Following the death of a colleague at sea, 19 crew members asked for a blessing on their ship when they arrived in Portsmouth docks. The men were distraught, grieving and seeking reassurance.

Our chaplain Peter Morgan arranged for local priest, Fr Peter Hard, to celebrate Mass on board and provide pastoral support. He said, “The mood on board was quite low and the tragic incident was still very fresh in their minds. Mass was celebrated in memory of the deceased crew member and after this, the atmosphere was more positive.”



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Masses

Port chaplains distributed ashes and celebrated Mass in ports around the country for Ash Wednesday, and even visited crew on board the P&O ferry Pride of Rotterdam in Hull.

Rosaries for seafarers

Seafarers love to receive rosary beads – and few are more precious than these Filipino tropical wood rosaries, made by the Grayshott Sisters in the Diocese of Portsmouth. The rosaries are blessed by Stella Maris chaplain Fr John Lavers before being passed onto seafarers and fishermen.



Rosaries for seafarers



Stella Maris magazine

Stella Maris magazine goes global

In March 2019 we began publishing our monthly faith magazine, Stella Maris, for seafarers and fishermen – and it's now being distributed in more than 76 ports around the world.

The magazine is in English and Ukrainian, which means most seafarers in the world can read and understand it, and it's free for anyone who wants a copy. The publication includes the Gospel reading for each Sunday of the month and a short commentary, as well as practical advice for seafarers and a poster and prayer to go on their

cabin wall. Already, Stella Maris magazine is bringing joy to seafarers around the world. Chaplain Joe O'Donnell in Glasgow said, "I just left some crew on a first-time visit here, and they were delighted to receive a copy of the magazine."

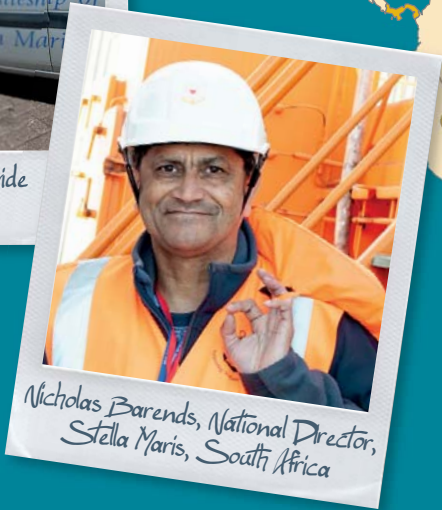


Supporting seafarers around the world

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, our team in South Africa received a new vehicle. It means they're now able to cover many more merchant shipping vessels visiting the country, across five ports.



Supporters help provide new vehicle



Nicholas Barends, National Director, Stella Maris, South Africa

Here at home



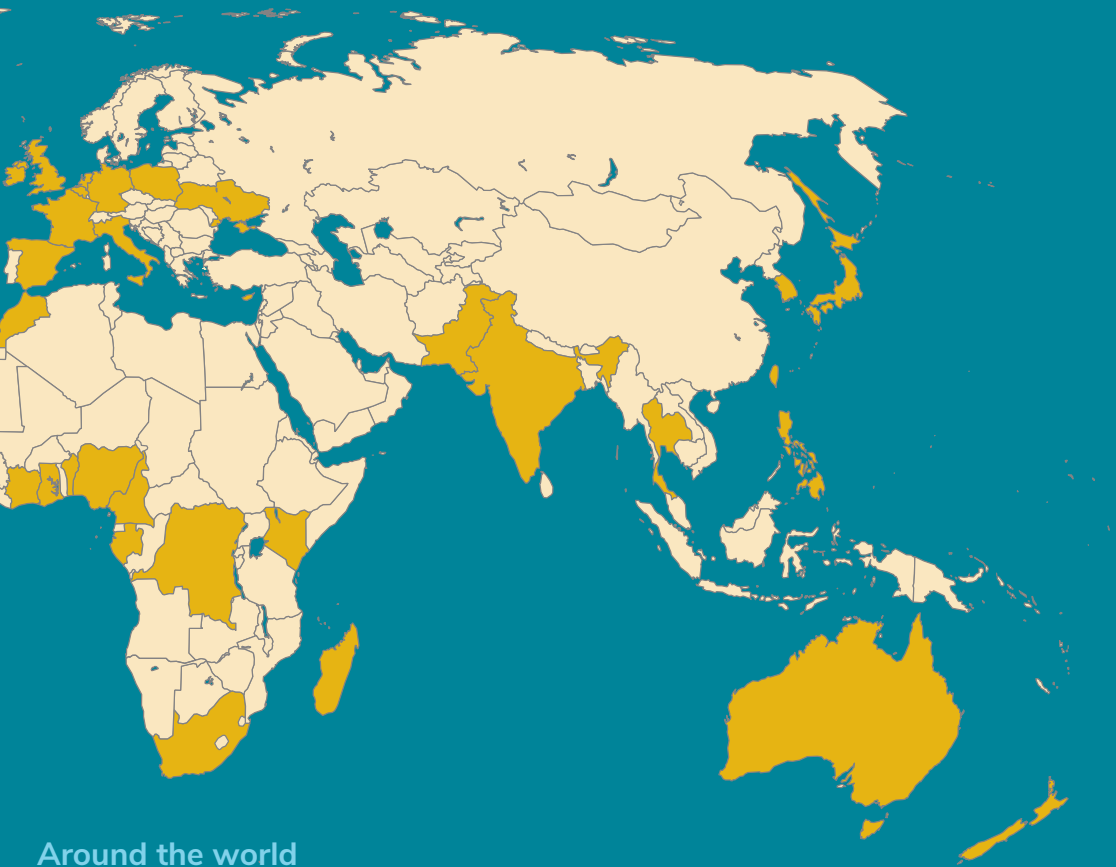
59
hospital visits



37 schools
visited, and talks
given to children
about the work
of seafarers



212 talks given
to parishioners
about Stella
Maris across
Great Britain



Around the world



54
Stella Maris
seafarers'
centres'



1.5 million
seafarers and
fishermen
visited



70,000
ships
visited



250
fishing vessels
visited



28% of ships
visited were
general cargo
vessels



12%
of ships
visited were
container
ships

Volunteer heroes

The work of Stella Maris would not be possible without the valuable contribution of our volunteer ship visitors. More than 118 volunteers work with chaplains at 73 ports across the country, and their presence means many more seafarers visiting our shores get the vital support they need.



Ship visiting in action: Hannah Forrest

At 24, Hannah Forrest is one of our youngest ship visitors. She joined the team in 2018, after graduating in psychology from the University of Plymouth. In 2019, Hannah won an award celebrating the contribution of young people to social action – and here, she reveals what inspires her about ship visiting.

Q. Why did you become a ship visitor in the first place?

A. I heard about it after Sea Sunday in 2018 and thought it was something I'd enjoy. I was unemployed at the time and really felt the need to get out and do something.

Q. What do you enjoy most about the role? A. Meeting so many amazing and lovely people. It is a real privilege to be

invited on board a ship to meet the seafarers and hear about their lives.

Q. How did you feel to win the 'Million Minutes' Celebrating Young People award in July?

A. I was in complete shock! All evening we'd been hearing about inspirational young people doing amazing things, so to receive the overall award means a lot. After the shock wore off I was really happy!

Q. What would you say to others thinking about volunteering with Stella Maris?

A. Go for it! It is immensely rewarding, the organisation is beyond supportive, you meet wonderful people and provide help and support to seafarers who need it.

Award for Tees and Hartlepool team

A Stella Maris team who supported a seafarer facing crippling medical bills following the birth of baby triplets have been recognised at the annual Safety and Sea Awards.



The Tees and Hartlepool team picked up the Shoreside Team of the Year Award during London International Shipping Week. It came after husband and wife ship visitors, Hugh and Mary Ward, stepped in to help a seafarer anxious about a debt greater than his annual salary.

Hugh and Mary gathered copies of hospital bills and asked a parish priest in the Philippines to visit the family and verify the facts. Before the ship left port, the pair had accessed the Stella Maris welfare fund to settle the debt. The seafarer and his

wife were overwhelmed – and invited Mary and Hugh to be godparents to the three babies.



Volunteer ship visitor Wendy Sword retired after an amazing 19 years' service with Stella Maris in Plymouth and Teignmouth. She received a Papal Blessing from National Director Martin Foley.



Volunteer Julian Wong notched up an incredible 1,000 ship visits with Stella Maris in 2019, five years after he first came aboard. Julian, part of the Felixstowe team, said, "It's so good to have reached this landmark in my ship-visiting ministry. I'm most happy when I'm visiting seafarers, and I've lost count of the number of friends I've made."



New Stella Maris seafarers' centre opens in Southampton



Fr John Lavers takes up a new role as Stella Maris UK Director of Chaplaincy

New seafarer centre for Southampton

A brand new Stella Maris centre was opened in Southampton in September 2019, giving seafarers a home-from-home as well as access to vital pastoral and practical support services.

The centre, in the grounds of St Joseph's church, just a short walk from the cruise terminal and port, offers free Wifi, TV, faith resources and tea and coffee facilities. Outside, there's a BBQ for summer entertaining. The centre was fitted out thanks to a grant from the Department of Transport.

UK Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani MP was at the opening. "This new hub will provide a vital space for seafarers and cruise ship crew to receive support, as well as acting as a resource and training centre for volunteers," she said. "I am delighted to support Stella Maris and thank them for the work they do."

First Director of Chaplaincy appointed

Fr John Lavers has been appointed Stella Maris' first UK Director of Chaplaincy. The former government crime and security specialist, from Canada, joined Stella

Maris in September 2018 as Southern Ports Regional Port Chaplain. He takes up his new role in January 2020, and said, "It is with great humility that I have the opportunity to serve in the ongoing missionary ministry to the people of the sea."

Launch of Life at Sea report

MPs, shipping executives and Stella Maris chaplains gathered for a UK Parliamentary event in January 2019 to mark the launch of our first Life at Sea report. The report, which details how Stella Maris works with the shipping industry to support



Kitack Lim, International Maritime Organisation Secretary General, UK Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani MP and Dr Esteban Pacha our new Chair of Trustees at the launch of our Life at Sea report.

seafarers in crisis, was welcomed across the board. Kitack Lim, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary General, told the gathering, *"I speak from the heart when I say how much I appreciate the work that Stella Maris does. Stella Maris provides the largest ship-visiting network in the world."*

Nusrat Ghani MP, UK Maritime Minister, added, *"There are many mixed crews of different nationalities and faiths and the fact that chaplains provide support regardless is absolutely unique."*

When regulation is not possible or effective, the mariner will always know the chaplain will be there."

The report highlighted that having a 'friend in port' is still vitally important for seafarers, even in our technological age. And in cases of abandonment, bullying and harassment, medical emergencies and refusal of shore leave, intervention by Stella Maris chaplains has a significant, positive impact.

New chair of trustees

Dr Esteban Pacha has been appointed as Stella Maris' new Chair of Trustees, after Simon O'Toole stood down after almost a year in the role. Dr Pacha, who had been Acting Chair of Trustees and before that, Vice-Chair, took up the position in July. A former seafarer on merchant vessels, Dr Pacha served as a captain before becoming a harbour master.

Meanwhile, CEO of the International Maritime Rescue Federation, Theresa Crossley, was appointed as Vice Chair of Trustees.

Stella Maris Masses

Masses to mark the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea were held around Great Britain in September, and prayers were said for seafarers and fishermen everywhere.

In Hull, at St Charles Borromeo church, our ship visiting volunteer Keith Rodgers was commissioned by Bishop Terence Drainey. In St George's Cathedral, Southwark, newly installed Archbishop John Wilson celebrated a Stella Maris Mass as one of his first episcopal acts. In Jersey's St Thomas' Val Plaisant Church, supporters heard of the work around the country over a buffet following Mass. And in Glasgow, several seafarers and fishermen attended the Stella Maris Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia.



*Stella Maris GB
Director, John Green*



*Children celebrate Sea
Sunday in 2014*



Hardy hikers

Support for Sea Sunday

Parishes all over Great Britain took part in our annual Sea Sunday celebration, to remember the hardworking men and women of the sea and donate to ensure seafarers get the support they need.

At the time of writing more than £456,460 was raised during Sea Sunday, which

will help support 76,076 seafarers in the months to come. Around 1,506 parishes made use of the resources we provided, including posters, children's activities, inserts for bulletins and newsletters and a video.

John Green, Stella Maris Director of Development, said, "We are so grateful to

the parishes and ordinary Catholics who support seafarers on this special day. Sea Sunday forms a significant part of our voluntary income, and means we can extend this vital ministry to more crews."

Hike across the Humber

These hardy hikers carried out a 'walk of witness'



Workers walk the Humber



Jimmy, 70, raises £700 for Stella Maris

across the Humber Bridge to raise awareness of the challenges faced by those at sea, and to celebrate the work of Stella Maris. They stopped on the north side to pray for seafarers worldwide.

Jimmy's walk to France

Seventy-year-old Jimmy Spriggs became a Stella Maris fundraising hero,

after he walked the equivalent of Jersey to France and raised an incredible £700.

Jimmy took part in the annual 'Walk to France' fundraising event, run by our team in Jersey, in May. He trekked round all 18 laps of the route, and notched up a hefty contribution to the £2,000+ total raised on the day.



Stella Maris – or Star of the Sea – is the name by which many seafarers know the Apostleship of the Sea.

It's the ancient title for Mary, the Mother of God. Traditionally, seafarers depended on the stars for navigation, and so relied on the protection and guidance of Our Lady.

Today, Stella Maris is the patron of Apostleship of the Sea.

Funding this vital work

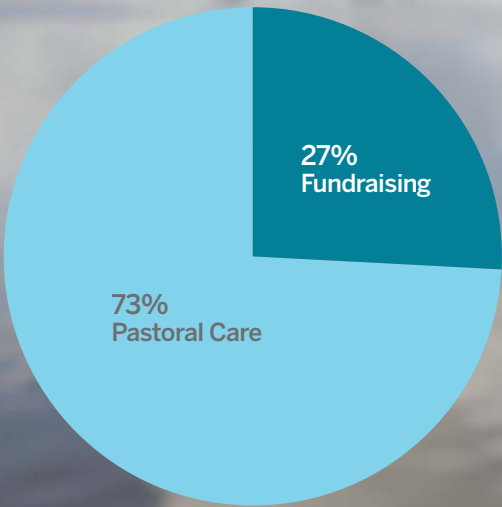
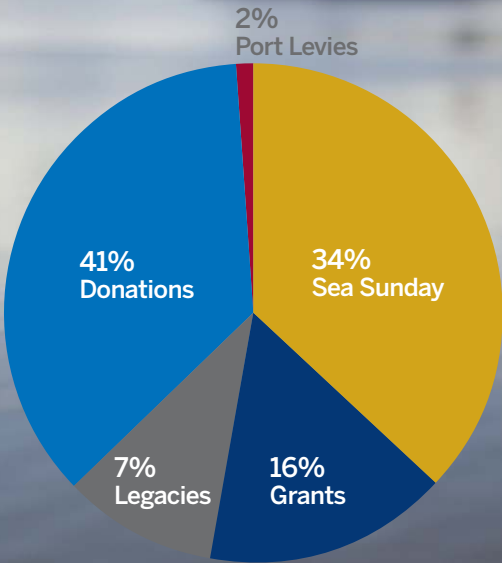
We're so grateful for the faithful generosity of Stella Maris supporters. Alongside grants and donations from within the shipping industry, our donated income supports chaplains and everyday support for seafarers in ports around the world.

Income £1.63m

Donations and legacy gifts received in 2019 amounted to £1.49m. If you sent a gift this year, thank you so much for your kindness and care. We particularly remember with thanks those who left donations in their wills.

Expenditure £1.79m

We've used these resources wisely and carefully to have the greatest impact. 19 chaplains in 73 ports around Great Britain were funded, and we've also helped the work of Stella Maris in South Africa and Ukraine.





Registered with



A lasting legacy

Many of our most committed supporters decide to remember Stella Maris in their will, as a way to ensure the hand of friendship reaches seafarers in the future, too.

It's a really significant way to make a difference; in fact, one in seven seafarers is helped thanks to legacy gifts.

The funeral of a long-serving Scottish seafarer, Denis Sullivan, led to a generous donation to Stella Maris after the charity was chosen for the retiring collection. Denis' widow, Jenny Sullivan, handed a cheque to Deacon Joe O'Donnell, Senior Port Chaplain for Scotland. Joe said, "We're so grateful to Denis' family for their kindness. He was a seafarer for a long time and obviously recognised the work of Stella Maris."



Could you leave a gift in your will to ensure seafarers get the support they need in the future? It's the most significant way to make a difference.

Call 020 7901 1931 to talk to someone about leaving a gift in your will.

Countdown to our 100-year anniversary

On 4 October, 1920, on the banks of the River Clyde, Glasgow, a group of Catholic men and women came together to form a new movement...

Their vision: to offer spiritual and pastoral care to seafarers and fishermen visiting our shores. The organisation they launched was called Stella Maris, Star of the Sea, and it soon became a beacon of light in an often-dark maritime world.

Today, Apostleship of the Sea (which in 2020 will revert back to its original name, Stella Maris) is in 55 countries, supporting more than a million seafarers every year.

In October 2020, chaplains, volunteers, supporters and seafarers from around the world will gather at the birthplace of global charity. Here, at the 25th World Congress, we'll give thanks for a century of care for seafarers and their families.

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[@Apostleshipsea](https://twitter.com/Apostleshipsea)

Yes, I want to be the friend in port to seafarers

Here is my gift of

£

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

☐

I would like to receive the Stella Maris e-newsletter

Donate online at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/donate-now

How would you like to give your gift?

☐

Cheque or postal order –

Made payable to: Stella Maris

☐

Credit card – Please fill in the details below

(Ensure we have your name and address. We do not accept Amex.)

Please debit my:

☐

Mastercard

☐

Visa

☐

Maestro

☐

Delta

☐

CAF Charity Card

Card no:

Name (as on the card):

Expiry date:

Security code CSV:

Date:

Signature:

By providing us with your address you give your consent for Stella Maris to contact you by post. Stella Maris will not disclose your personal data to any other organisation.

☐

I do not wish to receive any further communication from Stella Maris

☐

I would like information about leaving a gift in my Will to Stella Maris



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Gift Aid Declaration

**Boost your donation by 25p of
Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

giftaid it

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Apostleship of the Sea. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.



Thank you for your support