



JUNE
2022

Stella Maris

SUPPORTING SEAFARERS AND FISHERS AROUND THE WORLD

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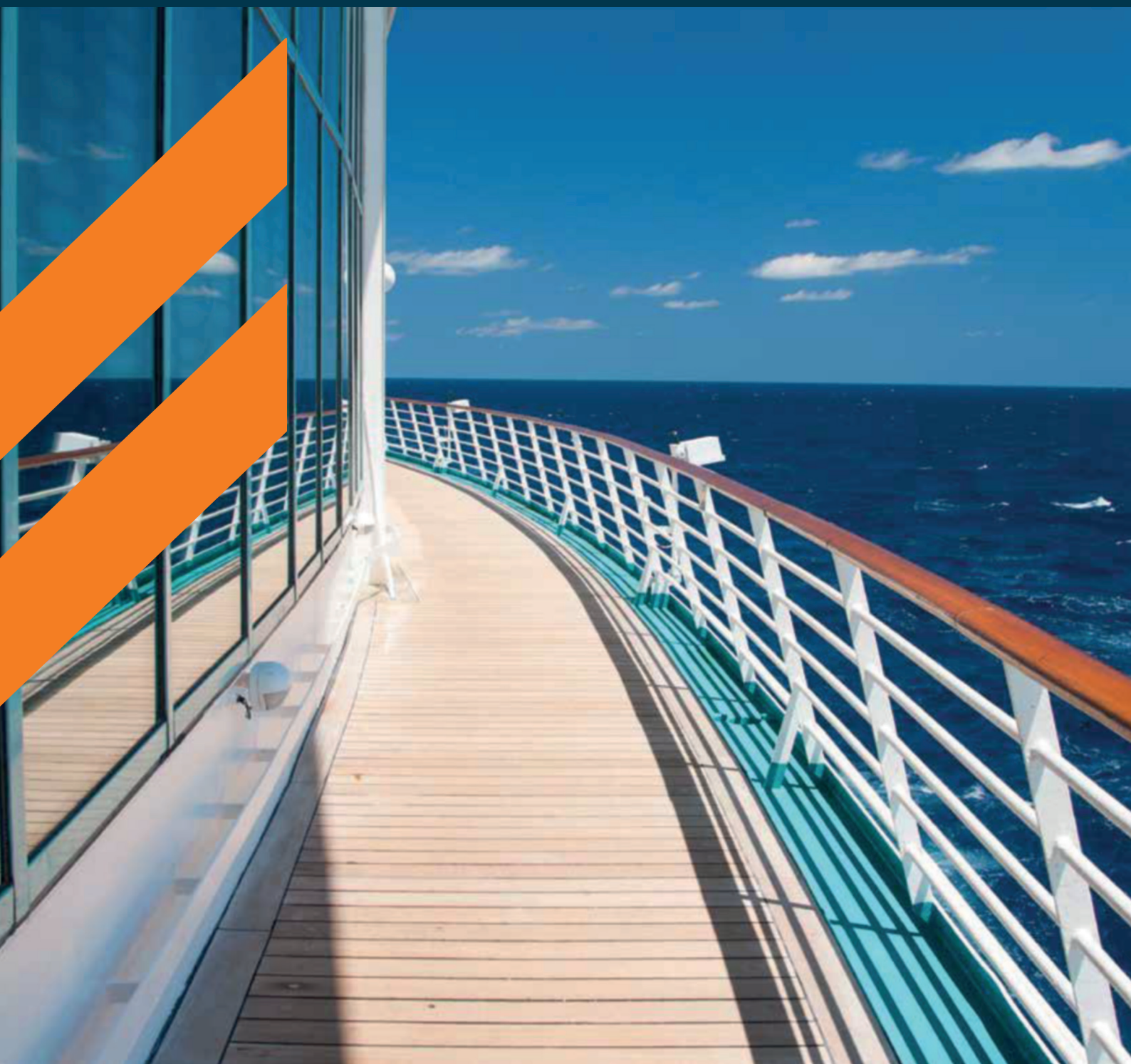
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Stella Maris is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers worldwide.

We provide practical and pastoral care to all seafarers, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Our port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship.

Stella Maris is the largest ship visiting network in the world, working in 332 ports with 227 port chaplains around the world. We also run 53 seafarers' centres all over the world.

We are only able to continue our work through the generous donations of our supporters and volunteers.

To support Stella Maris with a donation visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

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Stella Maris
provides seafarers
with practical
support, information
and a listening ear



BRAKE, GERMANY

The multifunctional seaport of Brake (Unterweser) is located in northwestern Germany at the river Weser, about thirty kilometres from the river mouth into the North Sea. The port of Brake has the largest coherent silo facility in Europe and can discharge 20,000 tonnes of agricultural goods a day.

Trimodal transport connections (road, rail, water) guarantee flexibility and customised solutions for agricultural transports. The goods leave the seaport on river barges, block trains or trucks headed e.g. for the German compound feed industry.

The seaport of Brake is a central European transshipment port for grain, feedstuff, agriculture and forest products, such as cellulose and lumber. Also for the German steel industry the port of Brake plays an important role. The handling of project cargo is also carried out.

The seaport of Brake is furthermore a hub of the onshore global wind energy industry.

Along the river quay of 2.5 kilometres, there are a total of eight berths. Vessels can approach the port with a maximum draft of 11.9 metres (scheduled to be 12.8 metres soon). Brake also has an Interior port that is utilized by ocean-going vessels, barges and fish trawlers. A sea lock connects the Interior Port with the river Weser. It has chambers with a size of 85 x 16

metres and a draught of between 3.5 (independent of the tide) and 5.0 metres (depending on the tide). For safety reasons, the seaport of Brake is a fenced port.

Stella Maris Bremen has looked after the Seamen's Mission since the 1980s and is also responsible for the ports of Elsfleth and Nordenham in the neighbourhood. In 2005 an ecumenical cooperation started with the Protestant Deutsche Seemannsmission. They both together are working in the Seamensclub "Pier One", that is in a distance of only 200 metres from the river quay. The motto is "home away from home". "Pier One" is opened every day from 5 p.m. in the afternoon to 10 p.m. in the evening. During the time of Corona Pandemic it has been open every day. But only one crew was allowed to stay in.

The Catholic Seamen's Mission Stella Maris manages the house on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday and, if required, on Sunday. There is a lounge, where seamen from all over the world can watch TV, drink a beer at the bar, play billiards or just talk together. So seafarers recover from the harsh working conditions on board and also receive social assistance and counselling when needed.

There is free wifi, so that the seafarers can phone their families for example in the Philippines,

Indonesia, Russia or Ukraine. They can buy phonecards and snacks at a small kiosk. Stella Maris also offers a minibuss shuttle to a supermarket and to the vessels.

German social worker Franz Wellerding has been the Brake port welfare officer for several decades. Sister Marina di Martino, an Italian religious woman living in Bremen, works as ship visitor. She can answer spiritual questions. Michael J. from Sri Lanka works in "Pier One". They are supported by a team of volunteers.



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Sunday at Sea with Fr Colum Kelly



PENTECOST SUNDAY SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

GOSPEL JOHN 14:15-16,23-26

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever.
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.'

THE GOSPEL AND YOU

My name is Flora, my husband Thomas is on a large ship somewhere in the vast oceans of the world. We only have contact by phone or Skype when he reaches a port. That time is very special.

Today at Mass we heard a lot in the readings about the Holy Spirit but as I looked around church at the many statues of bearded men showing the Father or Jesus but as for the Spirit the most we can expect is an image of a dove or a small fire. Both of these have their origins in Scripture, the Spirit descending on Jesus at his Baptism in the form of a dove and coming on the disciples on this day of Pentecost in tongues of fire.

On the eve of the Passion, he promised to send the Spirit to the disciples. Before the Spirit's coming they were timid and afraid, huddling together away from the public in fear of their lives. When he came among them in a miraculous blast of wind and fire, they were completely transformed.

So the Spirit is one of transformation, with the ability to root out, to change and to raise us to new levels of self-belief. I can remember the day I felt I had grasped this aspect of the life of the Spirit. I was sat on a rock above a cave near home, enjoying the warmth of the sun, mesmerised by the sound of the incoming tide. The beach below was covered in pebbles, small stones and as the tide rushed in, I could hear the loud hiss of it caressing yet disturbing every one of the thousands of small stones. As the tide rushed away again, nothing was exactly as before.

And isn't that the work of the Spirit within us, entering, cleansing every corner of our being leaving nothing untouched?

May the Spirit of Pentecost cleanse, transform and refresh all of us with confidence in the God who is always with us.

So wherever Thomas is today I pray that the Holy Spirit may inspire him and his shipmates, unite them and fire them up with God's great love for them.

TRINITY SUNDAY SUNDAY 12TH JUNE

GOSPEL JOHN 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:
 'I still have many things to say to you
 but they would be too much for you now.
 But when the Spirit of truth comes
 he will lead you to the complete truth,
 since he will not be speaking as
 from himself
 but will say only what he has learnt;
 and he will tell you of the things to come.
 He will glorify me,
 since all he tells you
 will be taken from what is mine.
 Everything the Father has is mine;
 that is why I said:
 All he tells you
 will be taken from what is mine.'

THE GOSPEL AND YOU

Flora here again.

Every call I am able to make to Thomas ends with the short prayer
 Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. The God
 who is, who was and is to come. This prayer tells us of the wonderful
 mystery of the Blessed Trinity, whose feast we celebrate today.

There are Three Persons in the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the
 Holy Spirit. Together they represent the fulness of love.

John's Gospel today tells us that God is a God so motivated by a love
 so great that he gave his only Son not to condemn but to save.

We are made in the image of God. God the Father, who created us,
 his Son who saved us, and the Holy Spirit who continues to guide us.

The Holy Trinity is outside the reach of time and beyond the grasp of
 human reasoning. It is a mystery of our faith. I like it that the figure three
 symbolises completeness and appears at many key moments of the
 Christ story.

The Holy Family, a trinity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In the desert
 preparing to begin his public life, Jesus was tempted three times by the
 devil. Christ was a storyteller and the number three figures prominently
 in his parables. The Prodigal Son is about a father and his two sons; the
 Good Samaritan tells of the three passers-by, the priest, the Levite and
 the Samaritan. The crucifixion scene has three figures, Christ between
 two thieves. Before his resurrection, he spent three days in the tomb.

I will never fully understand three persons in One God but do I really
 need to? I know the Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, the
 Holy Spirit is completion of that love for each other. Our lives should
 reflect the Trinity, creative like the Father, compassionate like his Son,
 and always ready to use our talents in the service of others.

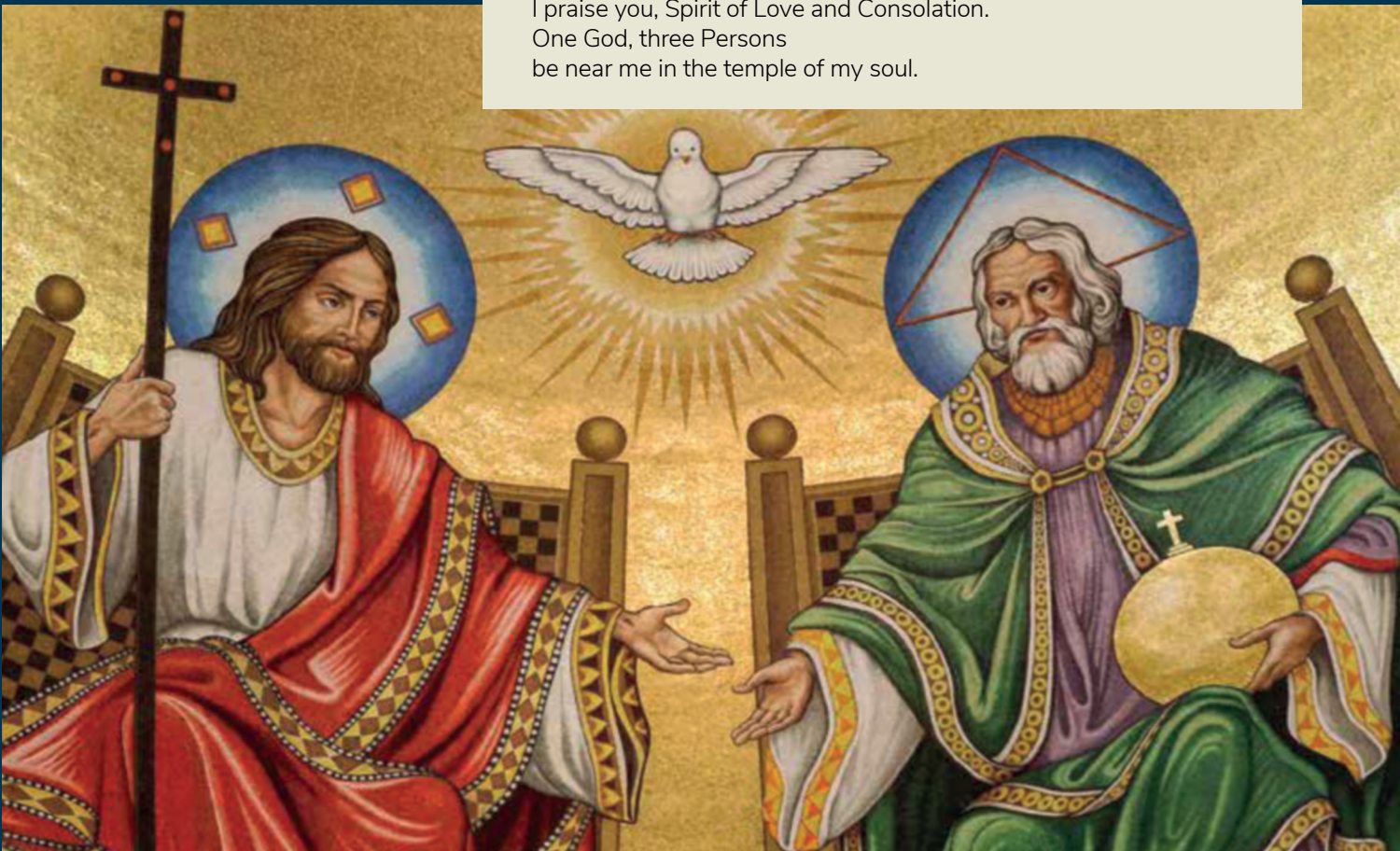
I praise you, Father all-powerful.

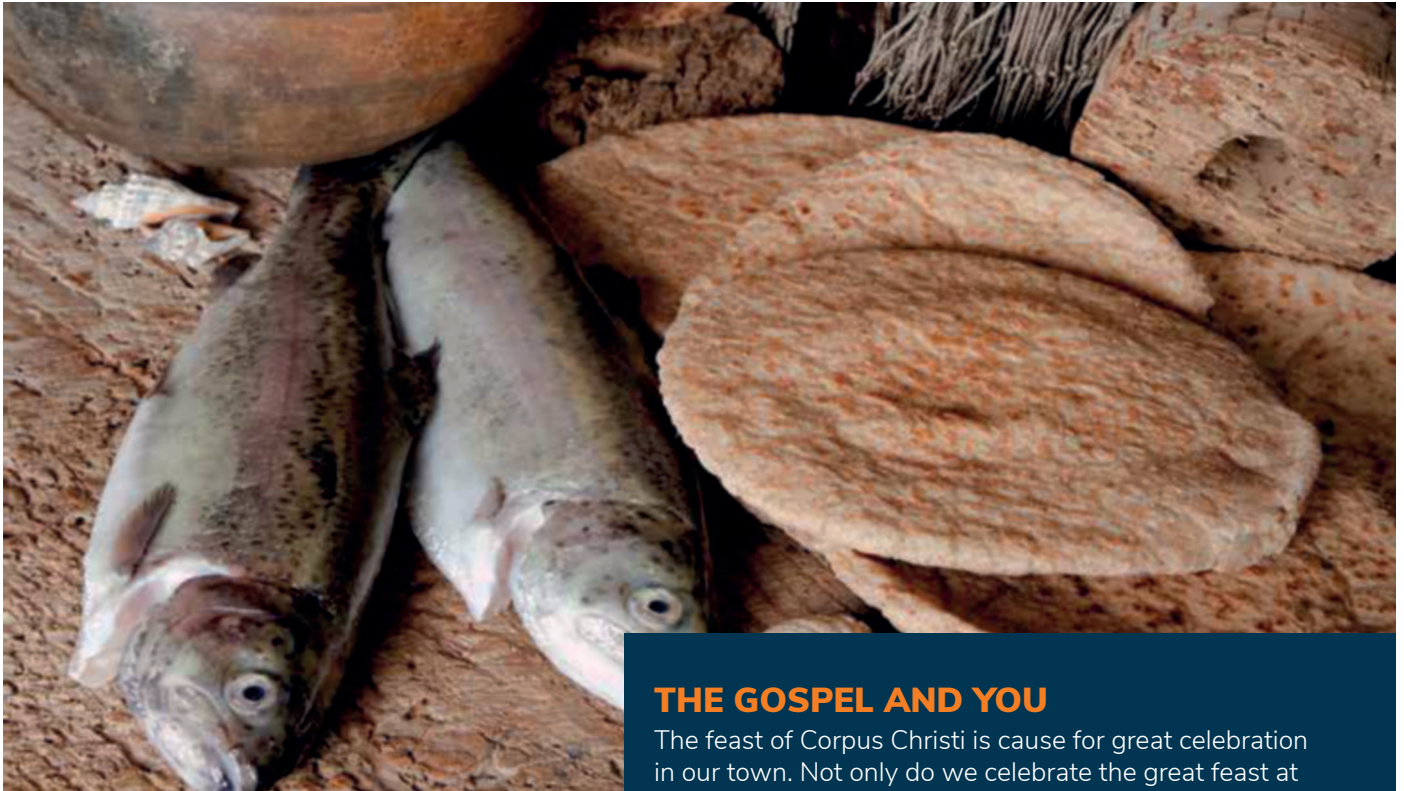
I praise you, Divine Son, our Lord and Saviour.

I praise you, Spirit of Love and Consolation.

One God, three Persons

be near me in the temple of my soul.





CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY 19TH JUNE

GOSPEL LUKE 9:11-17

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

THE GOSPEL AND YOU

The feast of Corpus Christi is cause for great celebration in our town. Not only do we celebrate the great feast at Mass but follow it with a procession through the streets. The children dress in their best clothes, young and old mix together to celebrate the love of God for each of us by giving himself in this unique sacrament. On this feast I centre on a verse that the priest says at every Mass

"Do this in memory of me".

Jesus did not want his spirit of sharing to be forgotten. He did not want his love to be forgotten. He wanted his life and his teaching to be remembered. And in our Eucharist he is forever remembered and made present to us, in ways that give us life.

In giving the disciples himself in the form of the bread and wine of the meal, he was declaring himself to be their food and drink, their very sustenance.

In today's gospel we hear of the miracle of the five thousand. Here, against all odds, Jesus feeds so many with so little and the people don't really understand.

At the Last Supper there would have been a lack of understanding about what Jesus was doing and the implications of that for generations to come. God promises to feed us not only sustaining our bodily needs, but enlivening our hearts and minds with the guarantee of his presence among us for ever

Thomas tells me that on ships that presence may be hard to find. In some ports a priest may come on board to celebrate Mass, or a Minister of the Eucharist take a Communion service. The reception of Holy Communion is celebrated with great joy but is a rarity. The crew have to find the presence of God in other ways, through prayer and reading. Their faith must be strengthened to realise that the Lord is present to them every moment of the voyage, in ways that may not always be obvious.

Against all the odds, as with the five thousand the Lord is fully present in all our needs. May our eyes and hearts be open to recognise and welcome that presence.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 26TH JUNE

GOSPEL LUKE 9:51-62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'



THE GOSPEL AND YOU

Good morning. Flora here again and I have some wonderful news to share with you later.

After listening to the Gospel at Mass today I was left totally exhausted. Everyone seemed to be in a great hurry from the very first sentence

"he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem"

We are told of his rejection in a Samaritan village but there was no time to argue or explain so he and the disciples hurried on to the next village.

The remaining section of the Gospel are made up of accounts of people who said they would follow him

"BUT first let me go to bury my father"

And again *"BUT first let me say farewell to my family"*

Jesus had no time to argue or try to persuade. The main point of his brief and sharp answers is to point out the cost of discipleship. It is not something that can be entered into lightly. Christian discipleship is not for the faint-hearted.

I do like Jesus's comparison of anyone who wants to follow him to someone who sets out to plough.

"No one who sets a hand to the plough and then looks back is fit for the kingdom"

The one who ploughs has to keep eyes fixed straight ahead otherwise the ridges will not be straight. I know to my shame that if I am driving and take my eyes off the road to turn around to rebuke bickering children, the car cannot keep a straight line. Very foolish. To look back while on the road of discipleship is equally foolish.

This is what a life of faith is all about – setting our sights on Christ and his kingdom and moving toward it, one step at a time; not letting our focus be distracted but striving by the grace of God within us to live after the example of Jesus, day by day.

And my news? I have just received an email from Thomas. He has reached his final port and will soon be on his way home. I thank God most of all that he is safe after ten months at sea.

Russia and the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

➤ **Discover the history of the consecration of Russia – and the world – to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In this article, we explain when Our Lady first asked for this consecration and why, what happened at the various attempts by Popes to perform the consecration and why they were unsuccessful, and the incredible result of Pope John Paul II's successful consecration in 1984.**



Why did Our Lady ask for Russia to be consecrated?

When Our Lady appeared to the children in Fatima on 13th July 1917, she showed them a vision of hell. She told the children: "To save [the souls of poor sinners], God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart." If this happened, she said, there would be peace and the First World War would end.

However, Our Lady warned that if people did not cease offending God, there would be a worse war, and that God would punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

She then told them: "To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world ..."

When did Our Lady request this?

On 13th June 1929, the oldest and only surviving Fatima seer, Lucia, was praying when Our Lady appeared to her again. She told Lucia: "The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the Bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. There are so many souls whom the justice of God condemns for sins committed against me, that I have come to ask for reparation: sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray."

So was Russia immediately consecrated?

No. In 1931, Our Lady appeared to Lucia again, complaining that "They have not chosen to heed my request ... they will regret it and then will do it, but it will



be too late. Russia will already have spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the Church. The Holy Father will have much to suffer."

Were there any later attempts to consecrate Russia?

Yes. On 31st October 1942 Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in a Portuguese language radio broadcast. He didn't specifically mention Russia, which might have been politically imprudent at the time, but referred to "those peoples separated by error and discord". Lucia later commented, however, that the consecration was not in accord with what Our Lady had asked for, inasmuch as it lacked the participation of the Bishops representing the entire body of the Faithful.

Later, in 1960, Pope John XXIII attempted to make the consecration to the Immaculate Heart in the Sanctuary at Fatima, but it failed to meet Our Lady's conditions because, although the Bishop of Leiria had written to all the bishops of the world, the Holy Father was not present himself, having sent a delegate.

In 1965 Pope Paul VI made an unexpected consecration at the last assembly of the Second Vatican Council. Although the Bishops were present it did not fulfil the terms of Our Lady's request because their participation was not solicited.

On 13th May 1982 Pope John Paul II made a consecration in Fatima when offering his would-be assassin's bullet to the shrine, but as this, too, was without the participation of the Bishops, Sister Lucia said that it was invalid.

So was there ever a successful consecration?

Yes. On the feast of the Annunciation, March 25th 1984, in Rome, kneeling before the same statue of Our Lady of Fatima which is venerated in the Chapel of the Apparitions, Pope John Paul II renewed the Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with substantially the same formula he used in Fatima on

13th May 1982. This 1984 consecration in Rome, made in union with bishops all over the world, corresponded exactly with the form of union that Our Lady had requested. Lucia confirmed that this consecration was successful.

What happened after the successful consecration of Russia?

Pope St John Paul II's act of 25th March 1984, which fulfilled Our Lady's request for the consecration of Russia, brought about the peaceful collapse of the Soviet Union, one of the world's greatest military superpowers. As a result the countries of Eastern Europe that had been overrun by the Soviet Union after World War II, were delivered from the atheist persecution that had caused untold suffering to millions of people, and were free to join the European Union.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, Pope Francis once again called on the Bishops and Faithful of the world to consecrate Russia and the whole world to Our Lady's Immaculate heart. He led the consecration from St Peter's Rome on 25th March 2022.

by Leo Madigan, Donal Anthony Foley, Timothy Tindal-Robertson



Fr David Burke, a Trustee for Stella Maris and Cruise Chaplain reflects on his Easter with MV Azura....

➤ **Usually, at this time, I would be preparing for the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter in a parish (or two)...but this year has been quite different – with my Holy Week being spent on the cruise ship MV Azura – an unusual way to spend this holiest of weeks and yet an incredibly blessed week too!**

I arrived in Valletta on Maundy Thursday to meet the Azura. The Azura is the biggest vessel I have ever seen (not pictured) with approximately 2000 passengers onboard and 1000 crew. From Valletta, we journeyed around the Mediterranean celebrating the Triduum and the beginning of Easter week along the way.

As I arrived onboard the ship, I was immediately greeted with such great warmth and welcome by the crew. The crew members – predominately from South India and the Philippines – were delighted that a priest was with them at this time. They immediately asked if Mass could be celebrated that evening for they hadn't the opportunity to go to Mass since Christmas. Can you imagine!!!

"Of course" came my humbled reply "what time were you thinking?" They looked at me and said: "Would 11:30pm be ok? We are not off duty until then." And so, our Triduum began....

Each day I had the privilege to celebrate early Mass with the passengers before their organised tours and last thing at night with the crew. The celebrations were

contrasting in numbers, style and representation...and yet were equally special with people from both parts of the vessel bringing their joys, concerns and challenges to the celebration of the Eucharist.

For myself too, it has been such a blessing and pleasure to celebrate the Triduum in this most unusual of places and to experience first-hand such great witnesses of faith: the faith of people onboard away from their families and homes on contracts of between 6-10 months' duration.

It is hard to give one highlight at this stage but the Easter Vigil has to be up there. In this holiest of nights, over two hundred crew came to celebrate our Lord – the Light of the World – who dispels all darkness and conquers sin and death. An experience I will never forget!

Please continue to keep seafarers in your prayers and if you can, please help Stella Maris in its outreach and support to seafarers from around the world who enter our shores.

May almighty God bless you.





PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Consecrate yourself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary with this prayer.

Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we consecrate ourselves, in an act of total entrustment to the Lord. By you we will be led to Christ. By him and with him we will be led to the Father. We will walk in the light of faith, and we will do everything so that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is the one sent by the Father. With him we wish to carry his love and salvation to the ends of the earth. Under the protection of your Immaculate Heart, we will be one people with Christ. We will be witnesses of his Resurrection. By him we will be led to the Father, for the glory of the most Holy Trinity, whom we adore, praise and bless for ever. Amen.



STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris is the largest ship-visiting network in the world. We improve the lives of seafarers and fishers through our network of local chaplains and seafarer centres, expert information, advocacy, and spiritual support.



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