

# Why we celebrate Sea Sunday



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When a ship comes into port, you might think that seafarers would be queuing at the gangway: impatient to stretch their legs and explore the local town. That might be true for some, but for most, the pressure of work means there is little time for such luxuries. Even if there is time, many seafarers choose to remain on their ships. I remember doing exactly that. You arrive in a port, think you ought to go ashore, but somehow you never get round to it. Life on a ship is different. You develop a different way of living, sleeping and socialising. Sometimes it is easier to stay with the familiar than enter the hustle and bustle of shore life. Nothing wrong with that, but eventually, it can lead to isolation and loneliness. I'm sure many people ashore who live alone can identify with that. Sometimes it's easier just to stay in than risk going out and not meeting anyone.

I loved being a seafarer, but it can take its toll. In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about how a visit from someone who cares can bring light and peace. That's why we at Mission to Seafarers visit ships. We care, and we want to show the love of Jesus to seafarers – no matter who they are.

Our Sea Sunday theme is Psalm 107. The Psalm not only reminds us that God looks after seafarers, but also that they see things that we don't: "They saw the works of the Lord, His wonderful deeds in the deep."

Seafarers don't just bring us goods and cargo; they see God's world in a raw and powerful way that we can learn from. When we visit a ship, we do God's work by showing love and compassion. In return, we are changed by entering their world. Everyone benefits when God's work is done, and He in turn is worshipped.

Kindest regards,



**Revd. Steve Morgan**  
Regional Director for Europe  
The Mission to Seafarers

