



Caring for Seafarers around the world.

The Sky Pilot

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS - NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE 16 – FEB 2015

The industry in which we work . . .

- The world's merchant fleet has over 42,000 ships of over 100 gross ton
- Over 90% of goods used on a daily basis are transported by sea
- There are over 1.3 million seafarers currently at work manning cargo ships, oil tankers, tugs, ferries and cruise ships

What we do

- **Pastorally:** Our Chaplains visit seafarers and provide a service of care and support to as many as possible. We also offer support to the families of seafarers, especially in times of crisis
- **Hospitality:** Our centres provide a welcome home from home for seafarers. It is in these Flying Angel centres that they can avail of telephone, Internet and recreational facilities and enjoy their time away from the ship
- **Advocacy:** The Mission works nationally and internationally to achieve justice for seafarers, and also campaigns for seafarers rights
- **Spiritually:** We recognise that seafarers have spiritual needs and - if requested - we aim to offer support according to individual seafarer's needs

Notes from the Chaplain

Dear Friends & Supporters

Autumn, Christmas /New Year was extremely busy for me and busy in the Centre, not least distributing over 300 Christmas presents. Thanks to those who helped Doreen fill and wrap them. We continue to be busy as I put pen to paper. God has blessed us with loyal and caring staff/volunteers, who enjoyed a post-Christmas outing recently. Sadly there has been some illness again (Christmas 2013 you will remember was very difficult!), but we trust once again for healing and good medical care

We would, of course **WELCOME MORE VOLUNTEERS ESPECIALLY FOR OUR RECEPTION AT NIGHT TIME**. There are opportunities not only in Belfast, but also to help Sam in Lisahally, and Johan in Warrenpoint. Sam and Johan are Christian volunteers who have stepped forward to undertake oversight of small centres in these ports and what ship visiting they can. I am most grateful for them.

Meanwhile we have been busy caring for seafarers through assiduous ship visiting, following up welfare issues on board e.g. wages delay, repatriation difficulties, looking after another fisher Kanderban, from Sri Lanka this time, who needed overnight accommodation whilst he linked up with an Irish fishing vessel.

We look forward again to a Student Placement after Easter, Christopher St. John from Hollywood, a student in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute—the first one from that source. Over 6,000 seafarers used the Belfast Centre in 2014!

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING

1. **TEA-AT-SEA** — in August brought in £475.00, besides much fun for our supporters.
2. **WOOLLY HAT DAY** — in October yielded £498.00, more fun, and the presence of Dame Mary Peters, who has kindly consented to become 'Patron of the Northern Ireland Branch, The Mission to Seafarers'.



3. **DOWN ROYAL RACECOURSE COLLECTION** — very cold and wet on Boxing Day! I am particularly grateful to the brave and happy six who donned suitable clothing to collect £893.04 with very good humour, (unfortunately two fell by the wayside due to illnesses).

4. **2014 STREET COLLECTIONS** raised £5,519.41. Thanks again to the volunteers who braved the streets and door-to-door. **MORE VOLUNTEERS AND MORE VENUES PLEASE.**
5. **2014 PARISH DONATIONS** raised £3,673.75. Thankyou Rectors and parishioners. Please ensure parishioners are able to have sight of this Sky Pilot and FAN. I am happy to preach at Worship with the help of visual aids, visit schools and youth groups or other parish organisations; alternatively come and visit us.
6. **BLACK SANTA SITOUT** — Once again kindly contributed to our funds to the tune of £800.00 from the 2014 Appeal. We are very grateful and admire the dedication of the Cathedral.

LENT APPEAL 2015

Lent starts Wednesday 18th February — Saturday 4th April

We have collection boxes here if you wish to raise funds through a
Lent Appeal

Please contact Doreen on 02890 751131

Or email directly at doreen@missontoseafarers-ni.org

NOW to things you can help with very directly please:-

1. **WARRENPOINT HARBOUR CENTRE** — needs facilities / recreations for the seafarers coming to that increase ingly busy port e.g. T.V., pool table, soft seats, fridge, (especially a corner unit). If you can help with the supply or cost of such items, I would be very grateful. (STOP PRESS:T.V. gifted!)
2. **ANNUAL AUCTION** — we need plenty of items and collectables, your support and that of your friends on the day. Contact Doreen regarding collection of items. Larger items would need transporting directly to Dunseverick. Date to be arranged.
3. **TALL SHIPS RACE** — 2nd — 5th July 2015 — we are delighted to have been nominated by the organisers as one of five charities to be allowed to fundraise during this fantastic, high-profile event. The race starts in Belfast this time! However we certainly will need “ all hands on deck”, not only Thursday to Sunday in the Centre, but also manning two ‘charity centres’ - one on either side of the river. This is a fantastic opportunity for fundraising alongside other maritime Charities.



Thanks again for your support and prayers.

Colin

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