

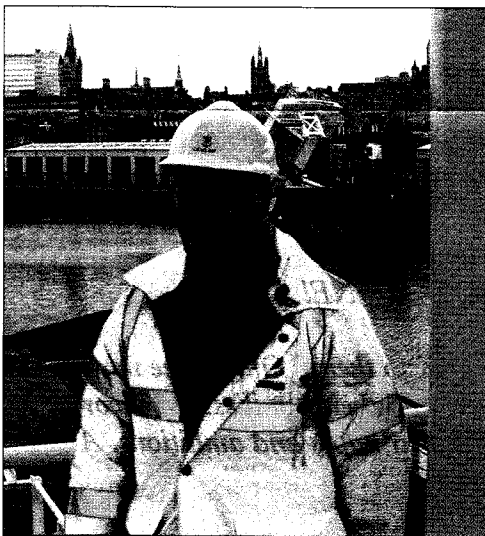


# Sea Sunday Appeal

**Sea Sunday, celebrated this year on the 10th July, is the day the Catholic Church remembers all those who live and work at sea.**

Often seafarers are taken ill whilst onboard ships and away from home. Sometimes a seafarer is too sick to return to duty and must stay where they have docked for medical attention, whether their ship stays or sails. Who is there to visit a lonely seafarer in hospital and care for his needs both practical and spiritual?

Our chaplains and ship visitors extend their visiting duties to seafarers who are in hospital. Often a seafarer is in a strange town and knows no-one and has no idea how to contact their families or what the procedure is for them when they have recovered. AoS is there to support them through this process.



Recently our chaplain in Aberdeen, Brian Kilkerr, was involved in the aftermath of a serious incident, which involved a Filipino fisherman working on a vessel in Fraserburgh. Rogelio collapsed one day on the quayside. Luckily a worker in the harbour office saw him fall to the ground and rushed out to give assistance; she used Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to restart Rogelio's heart as paramedics were scrambled.

Visiting Rogelio at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary became a daily activity for Brian throughout December 2010. At the beginning of the month Rogelio underwent heart bypass surgery resulting in him being unable to fly home for Christmas. So Brian stepped in to support him through this difficult period. Brian organised for a priest and some of the Filipino community to visit to keep up Rogelio's spirits. Brian recalls:

*"My involvement was a daily hospital visit - he was eating and sleeping well - his English was not what we would call 'grammar school' and my language skills are 'zilch' which gave rise to a lot of laughter - his spirits one could only admire. One day he told me that he had a visit from an "entertainer" which turned out to be an interpreter."*

Brian organised means for Rogelio to be able to contact his family back home and fellow patients persuaded staff to get him free use of the phone. He could read English and attempted the crossword each day.

A month after his surgery it was agreed that Rogelio was strong enough to be put on a flight back home to recuperate further in the Philippines. With liaison from Brian the shipping company who owned the vessel Rogelio was working on kindly purchased the air ticket which was delivered to Rogelio along with his passport and personal belongings. Brian assisted in getting him to the airport and safely on to the plane home. Rogelio's wife and 18 year old son met him in Manila airport. Brian has since had a message that Rogelio has recovered well and is looking for land based work which is not easy to come by in the Philippines; but he now understandably wants to stay close to his family.





The incident overleaf is a good example of what our AoS chaplains do best; they listen, empathise and most importantly act. On Sea Sunday the day in which we are asked to remember all seafarers we ask you to remember Rogelio and others like him. Seafarers all over the UK who need AoS to support them.

Please think about this whilst you read this poem written for AoS and all its supporters.

### *LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT!*

*A smile - good morning - as a stranger passes by - warms the heart - the world is a good place. Extending the hand of friendship to a seafarer equally strikes a chord which resonates within the person who is far from home; from his native land. An embrace is by mobile phone.*

*Children are born - teenagers developing need guidance - dad where are you? -  
When will you be home?  
Loving remarks which reduce the distance but not the absence.*

*My job is important - the materials our ship carries enables structures to be built - people to be fed.  
These islands called Britain - have a 95% dependency on shipping  
to be able to live their everyday lives.*

*One of their number called a chaplain visits our ship whilst it is in port. Help is at hand for communication home - conversation - laughter - I AM NOT ALONE!*

*The Blessed Sacrament can be brought to us - in Port at Christmas three of us got to Mass.*

*Whilst in hospital I was visited - received newspapers - chocolate - toothpaste;  
help with communication home.*

*We laughed at my English - as he did not speak my language -  
and arranged for ladies who could to visit me. I AM NOT ALONE!*

*The photographs of my family are much admired - which helps me to be closer to them. Only three more months and I will be home again with them. We say a prayer for all seafarers and their families. My work, I realise, provides supplies which enables families in other countries to fulfil their hopes and ambitions. A prayer card is now up by my bed.*

*I AM NEVER ALONE.*



Apostleship of the Sea is a front line service for the care of seafarers visiting our shores. We provide practical and pastoral help, solidarity and a hand of friendship to all seafarers. We also work and campaign to educate governments and the public on issues facing seafarers on a daily basis. We say 'no' to exploitation, and unsafe work practices. We say 'yes' to human rights, fair freight and working conditions. AoS port chaplains and ship visitors visit 12,000 ships every year, in 57 ports around Great Britain.

**However we need your support to keep our work going.**