



APPEAL TALK

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.” Today we are asked by the universal church to remember especially the seafarers sailing the oceans of the world because they are especially “overburdened.”

Here in Australia, we are privileged to enjoy a lifestyle that is envied by many overseas. And that lifestyle is supported almost entirely by the efforts of seafarers who bring to us our food, our furniture, our motor vehicles and most of our white goods. These seafarers, more than thirty percent of whom come from the Philippines, work long hours in conditions that most of us would not tolerate. They suffer from constant noise, vibration, fear of illness or injury whilst at sea, loneliness and depression. We are all beneficiaries of their work.

Responding to the call by Jesus to his followers, the volunteers, chaplains and ship visitors of Stella Maris do whatever they can to assist these workers whilst they are in our ports. Around Australia, seafarers are welcomed, and transported to city centres and to Stella Maris centres where they can relax and contact their families. You can assist that work by your prayers and by making a financial contribution.

You may visit our website to volunteer or to donate to our Sea Sunday Appeal. Please go to www.stellamarisaustralia.org Thank you.