

PRAYERS TO BE USED AS PART OF A SEA SUNDAY SERVICE

MEDITATIONS

Pray for God's blessings upon all seafarers as they play an instrumental part in transporting almost everything that we use on a daily basis. Remember the sacrifices made by seafarers who give up a lot to give us so much. Think about where your reliance is placed when it comes to the struggles and strains of life. Are your feet firmly fixed on the rock or do they waver? Ask God to help you not to take the things you have for granted and to continually rely on him for his provision in your life.

FOR SEAFARERS

Almighty God, we remember those whose lives are lived on your great oceans. For those who go down to the sea in ships, we give thanks; they enrich our lives at great personal cost. May they daily feel the strength of your protection, the warmth of your presence and the love of your relationship as they seek hope of safe passage. Pray for seafarers who are stranded at sea and forced to survive using only the resources available around them. Comfort them in times of loneliness and need and remind them that, in you, they are never alone, particularly when they are struggling with poor weather conditions or sickness.

REMEMBERING SEAFARERS' FAMILIES

Loving Father, we pray for solace for families awaiting the return of seafarers; allow your grace and peace to dwell in their homes and their hearts until they are reunited with their loved ones. Banish fear and pain and uncertainty from their lives, that they may be blessed with hope for safe return and joy at the reunion. Pray for hope for imprisoned seafarers and their families that they would be released and returned swiftly. Please also pray for seafarers and their families who are struggling with ill health. Father, please provide all that they need to recover and wisdom for any medical professionals who may be involved.

FOR THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY

God, we lift up the shipping industry to you; those who build, those who own, those who manage and those who operate ships to support the trade of the world. We thank you for every company that cares for those who go to sea on its ships. Lord we pray for the wellness of all

who work at sea and ask that you bless them with safe working conditions, good food and just rewards for all their efforts. Let justice prevail so that those who are exploiting seafarers would cease to do so. Lord, please surround those who work for unjust employers with your love and protection when they are treated unfairly.

THOSE ON WHOM SEAFARERS DEPEND

We give thanks for those who protect and support those that work on the sea, providing rescue services and safe havens. We remember today the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, the Royal Navy, and maritime trades unions. We rejoice that the work of these, and other organisations around the world, gives great comfort to those who are at times in danger, exhausted, injured, exploited, lonely and afraid.

FOR HARMONY ON BOARD

Holy Spirit, may you join the crew of every ship that sails the oceans, bringing peace and harmony to them. May your presence counsel the downhearted, heal the sick and bind together seafarers of all nationalities, cultures and faiths so that they can live in harmony despite their differences. Where there is a language barrier, would you be their mouthpiece.

FOR SAILORS' SOCIETY

Sovereign Lord, we thank you for laying the needs of seafarers upon the hearts of your people and giving them such a vision for Sailors' Society 200 years ago. We thank you for their vision to provide Christian care for seafarers around the world, irrespective of their religious faith, nationality and background. We remember the work of the charity's port chaplains around the world who are the hands and feet of Jesus as they bring your love to seafarers through acts of kindness and compassion. We thank you for Sailors' Society staff involved in supporting the families of seafarers; building homes, schools, medical centres, and improving seafaring communities by sharing your love. We pray that you will grant them and Sailors' Society every success in all that is done for seafarers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.