



# Mission to Seafarers Sydney

## THE MASTER'S MARINER

May you experience the Lord's blessings at this special time  
- and  
Every day

**HAPPY  
EASTER**

Best wishes  
from the  
team at



### HAPPY EASTER – MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN REV TAY

Since the new cruise season started in October 2023, we have seen a tremendous breakthrough in opportunities to go on board visiting the crew. I continue to visit several vessels a week – about 30 since the start of the year. We have seen more and more crew members approaching us for ministry such as pastoral counselling and requests for prayers. We have never seen this happening before.

I have been blessed with several faithful volunteers to help me connect with the crew and deliver parcels. Recently a woman approached us with tears streaming down her cheeks – “Rev, I am suffering. This is so hard. Help me pray I can just complete my contract. Thank God for all of you, I needed prayer since I started this ship, I didn’t talk about it. You and Lisa are angels; I am touched by angels.” We also help deliver personal items they need when they don’t have time to shop.

Thank you to Lisa (pictured right), Richard, Kath, Ben L and all the kind volunteers who have assisted us in providing this new service both on board ships and in the office.

### Centre open over Easter

In the midst of so many conflicts and uncertainties around the world, we take comfort that God is still on the throne, He is in control and He sent his Son to show us how much he loves us all.

Let us pray for seafarers from all around the world this Easter that they may experience the daily hope, love, joy and victory over sin that comes when we put our trust in Jesus.



Our Centre is open throughout the Easter weekend and we are looking forward to sharing some cross buns and mini easter eggs with our visitors.

If you are at sea - or on land - looking for an on online service see [https://sydneycathedral.com/our-Sea-Sunday-partners!](https://sydneycathedral.com/our-Sea-Sunday-partners/)

### COMING UP – PLEASE JOIN US

- **AGM + Lunch**  
Wednesday,  
22 May 2024  
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
RSVP – [please phone us.](#)
- **MtS Sydney 2024**  
Annual Luncheon  
21 June 12 – 2PM  
Tickets – see invitation\*
- **Sea Sunday 14 July**

Thank you to our Luncheon Sponsors so far – opportunities still available!



### \*Your Invitation - Join us at NSW Parliament House

Sydney Annual Luncheon 2024

FRIDAY JUNE 21



<https://bit.ly/MtSLunch24>





## Chaplains' Visits Bring Comfort

“ The seafarer I recently visited in Macquarie Uni Hospital had open heart surgery. I brought him a SIM card, we chatted, I fed him his lunch and provided a SIM card. Then we prayed together.

- Chaplain Retchie

Seafarers are constantly dealing with feelings of isolation, insecurity, uncertainty, complications over work or wages and difficulties contacting their loved ones. It's even worse left behind in a hospital.

- Rev Tay



## Parcels Open Doors

We are continuing to touch hearts and transform lives through our parcels collection centre. Over 1000 parcels have been delivered to our Mission and they continue to arrive daily. The parcels bring seafarers, especially from Cruise ships, into the Centre where they discover our other services as they collect their parcels.

Many remain here to relax. They enjoy chatting to our volunteers and Chaplains. The parcels are creating an atmosphere of home, whereby we can have meaningful conversations and share the love of Christ through our words and actions. It is increasing difficult to distribute Christian literature on board vessels, but at our Centre, they are easily available to those with questions.

Sorting the parcels takes time, but it's wonderful to see the elation expressed. I heard one crew say: "I feel loved!" A special gift can make a world of difference to someone who is confined on board for 9 months, working 7 days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day under tight surveillance and restrictions.



**Image:** Serhil (left), a Ukrainian musician from the *Brilliance of the Seas*, was delighted to receive his parcel from our volunteer Richard (right). Serhil had found the classic 70 year old saxophone on ebay. It arrived at our Centre just in time for his birthday! He hadn't been home for many months but was grateful his extended family was in a safe part of Ukraine for now. He focused on his work to prevent thinking too much about the war.



## Spiritual Focus Day

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual MtS Sydney Spiritual Focus Day. Our liaison Bishop Rev Michael Stead shared on the theme '*Caring for Carers*' and led a thoughtful discussion on the biblical basis for caring. The group also explored practical ways to support people who are caring for others.

Rev Tay thanked Bishop Michael for his clear presentation and reflections, the team for their united effort in setting the place and the lovely lunch and the beautiful singing by Lisa, our newest Centre volunteer, which touched the hearts of all participants.

## Welcome Aboard Mariam!

As MtS' new administrator Mariam Low leverages her diverse linguistic skills, unwavering faith and resilience forged through personal challenges to foster deep connections with seafarers. She also uses her events management, marketing, and wellbeing training to support our small team, including on weekends.

Her gift for empathetic understanding and support was discovered during her time assisting migrants at a centre in Adelaide, a journey paralleling her own as a migrant from Malaysia adjusting to life in Australia.

"Like any of us, seafarers often encounter challenges that can seem overwhelming, especially when they are far from home, loved ones and friends," Mariam explains. "But they can often work it out for themselves when they find someone who takes the time to genuinely connect and listen attentively. It is in these moments that we can truly make a meaningful impact in their lives. And that make this role so special."

Upon relocating to Sydney, Mariam connected with Rev Tay and started volunteering for the Mission just before covid lockdowns. Rev Tay commended her as a terrific support for the team during that difficult time. Together with Rev Tay, she assisted in procuring supplies for seafarers, listened to those in need, and contributed to Mission events. Recognising Rev Tay's struggles with the parking issues, Mariam played a pivotal role in obtaining municipal approval for our buses to park right in front of the Centre, enhancing safety and convenience for all involved.

Thank you and best wishes to Sarah in her new job closer to home - it was a joy working with you!





# Entries Open Until May 25 in Beanie Comp

Entries welcome to the 1st ever Henty Beanie Competition! More than 200 beanies have been entered into the Henty Beanie Festival Competition in June so far. All the beanies from this small town with a big heart near Wagga Wagga are being donated to our Mission – to add to the dozens they send each year which are greatly appreciated by seafarers.

**Send your entries to:**

Dales Electrical Centre,  
21 Sladen St, Henty 2658.

**There are 4 sections for the adult beanies.**

- 1. Just a beanie 2. Colourful 3. Novelty 4. Down by the sea

**Tag your beanie with name and phone no. for great prizes!**

Organiser Yvonne Booth (pictured) spoke to Macca on Australia All Over, ABC Radio, last month and now has entries flooding in from all over Australia!

MtS CEO Clayton Strong will be personally going to collect the beanies and share seafarers stories and our thanks. The judge is Patricia Meehan, winner of 2023 Alice Springs Beanie Festival Competition, with a special celebration at the Henty Craft Gallery.

## Still time for free legal Will offer

Our supporters can still leave a legacy for free using our partnership with *Gathered Here*, Australia's most trusted online Will provider. *Gathered Here*, which offers free unlimited Will updates, recently announced that over \$500 million has now been promised via its platform for a wide range of charities. (Animal charities and health were the most popular.)

Of course, you can still add a charitable gift in the traditional way through using your solicitor's services if you prefer – if you'd like to support our work, give them our title and ABN. It is a terrific way to show future generations what causes really mattered to you. We hope we are one of those.

For more information contact Clayton, MtS CEO, for more information or see: <https://bit.ly/MTSLegacy> or our website.



**Image:** MtS Sydney Principal Chaplain Rev Tay, assisted by our Chaplain Retchie, blessed the Port Authority of NSW's two new fire fighting vessels during their naming ceremony at Walsh Bay recently.

Sister Mary Leahy of Stella Maris (2nd left) sprinkled holy water (from the harbour) on the new vessels.

Port Authority of NSW CEO Phil Holliday said 'Burra' and 'Girawaa', the all-Australian custom-built vessels, could travel at speeds of up to 27 knots. They can complete 360 degree turns and spray 16,000L of water per minute – the equivalent of 4 large fire engines. See the 'Latest News' section of our website for more details.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Easy Ways to Give – donations over \$2 are tax deductible:

- 1. **PREFERRED: Website.** Use QR code or visit 'Donation' page on our website (*instant receipt*)
- 2. **Direct deposit:** into **BSB 062 074 Account No: 1000 8062 - PI. email us the details for your receipt**
- 3. **Cheque:** to 'Mission to Seafarers Sydney'\*
- 4. **Credit/Debit:** Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for receipt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  Mastercard  Amex

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please return this form to: Mission to Seafarers, 24 Hickson Road, Millers Point, NSW 2000

ABN 91 451 928 534



Thank you for helping us to serve more of the 400,000+ seafarers who visit Sydney each year

enquiries@missiontoseafarers.org.au | T: 02 92413009 | [www.missiontoseafarerssydney.org.au](http://www.missiontoseafarerssydney.org.au)

