

# SUNDAY PLUS

Sea service

## Good Samaritans

by Sr Janet Fearn FMDM

When the tugboat Reindeer sank in Arctic waters in March 1932 my grandfather, then a Second Lieutenant, commanded the lifeboat which rescued twenty-seven people and the captain's dog from the bitterly cold ocean, taking them to his ship, the SS Montcalm. How did those survivors feel when someone grabbed hold and laboriously pulled each man aboard, first of all, the lifeboat, and then the ship? Were they too exhausted, cold and wet to think straight? What was that first hot drink like when they reached the warmth and safety of the Montcalm's galley? Was the Reindeer's captain torn between loyalty to his shivering, bedraggled

dog or rescued crew? Was the dog a last contact with the boat which none would ever see again?

Today's Gospel tells us about the Good Samaritan, someone whom Jesus invented but surely based on his witness and experience of people who put themselves out for others, perhaps risking their lives in the process? We don't know the life stories of either the robber's victim or his rescuer – but the same is true for those who rescued many thousands of migrants from the Mediterranean during the past few years; for the fishermen who used their frail boats to save people from the devastating 2018 monsoon floods in Kerala; and for the crews of the "Little Ships" who brought back 338,226 soldiers from the shores of Dunkirk in May 1940.

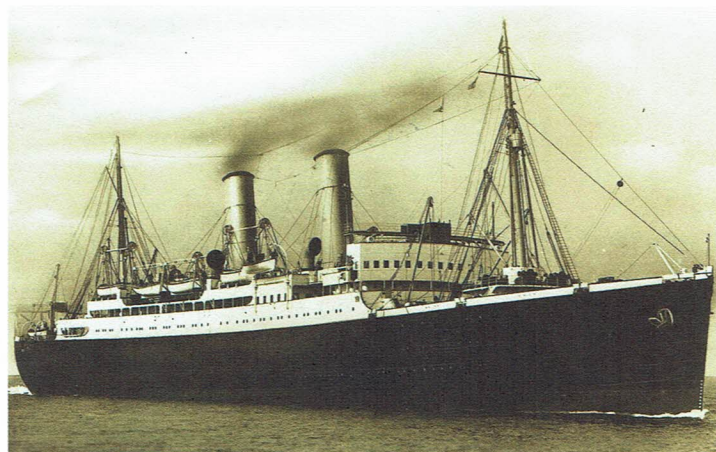


Photo of SS Montcalm / Canadian Pacific Ships

Good Samaritans don't boast of their courageous generosity. Most of us know little or nothing of the seafarers' recurring nightmares surrounding successful and unsuccessful rescues. Even if there

might never be the opportunity to thank them in person, countless families are undyingly grateful for their selflessness.

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

## Good Samaritans at sea

by Dame Mary Richardson

Sailors have always gone down to the sea in ships, knowing they might not come back, or be called, as a ship's Master I heard on radio, to be the last to leave the sinking ship. He spoke of simply looking after his crew, doing his duty. Training in those values and service continues: teenage Sea Cadets return from a week on a sailing ship, having cooked, cleaned the "heads," taken their turn at dawn watch, supported their friends and been supported. They return with a new understanding and consideration for others, to the amazement of their parents. Like the Master I heard, and the Samaritan in today's Gospel,

cadets have simply cared for each other, forgetful of self.

Today Sea Cadets will say the beautiful Sea Cadet Prayer which finishes: "Teach us to serve you as our Master on our earthly voyage, so that, at the last, we may come to the peace and safety of your eternal haven."

Dame Mary Richardson has worked with young people all her life and was awarded a DBE in 1999 for her services to education.

**"I ask the Blessed Mother, Star of the Sea, to extend her maternal protection to the people of the sea and guide them from the dangers of the sea to a secure port."**

Pope Francis

## Good Samaritans in port

by Cowan Watson

When the offshore supply vessel, the Malaviya Seven docked in Aberdeen harbour in June 2016, no one could have imagined that the Indian crew on board were going to be left stranded in Aberdeen for more than a year. A routine inspection discovered that the crew hadn't been paid for months and the ship was forbidden to leave port. Eventually, nearly two years after their last pay day, the crew finally had cash in their pockets but in the months spent in Aberdeen, fighting for justice, they were completely dependent on numerous good Samaritans, not least the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) Chaplain, to keep them materially and spiritually afloat.

This is the sort of story which hits the headlines but, every day, in ports across Britain, a host of dedicated Samaritans provide for the personal, social, and spiritual needs of these vital workers without whom our global economy would collapse.

Cowan Watson is the Editor of *Light of the North*, a quarterly magazine produced by the Diocese of Aberdeen.

**Lord, we owe so much to those men and women who serve us through their work at sea. Bless them and their families and give them safe passage as they travel Amen.**

Today:  
Deuteronomy 30:10-14  
Colossians 1:15-20  
Luke 10:25-37

Monday:  
Exodus 1:8-14, 22  
Matthew 10:34 – 11:1

Tuesday:  
Exodus 2:1-15  
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday:  
Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12  
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday:  
Exodus 3:13-20  
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday:  
Exodus 11:10 – 12:14  
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday:  
Exodus 12:37-42  
Matthew 12:14-21

Next Sunday:  
Genesis 18:1-10  
Colossians 1:24-28  
Luke 10:38-42