



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$1,209

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Masses for the week of JULY 14, 2024 – JULY 20, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 14	10:00	Deceased Memb.of the Cutro & Clement Families	Family
	12:00	Virginia Clark+	Bernadette & John
Mon. July 15	9:30	Anita M. Gatto+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Arturo & Cesar Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Tue. July 16	9:30	Carmela & Giuseppe Salituro+	Enrico Salituro
	11:45	Gret & Jack Molloy+	Angela Hickey
Wed. July 17	9:30	Georgeen Slee+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Grace & Matthew Tavormina (Wedding Anniv.) (Liv.)	Fely Guinto
Thurs. July 18	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Glen & Elizabeth Guinto (Wedding Anniv.) (Liv.)	Fely Guinto
Fri. July 19	9:30	Anson E. Sabatini+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Willie Molloy+	Breda Walsh
Sat. July 20	9:30	Angela Cassidy+	Breda Walsh
	11:45	Tony Casale+	Dom & Terri Porto

Today’s Readings:

First reading: Amos 7:12-15 – God called Amos away from caring for sheep and sent him to shepherd the people of Israel.

Second reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 – God chose and blessed us even before creating the world.

Gospel :Mark 6:7-13 – Jesus sends his disciples out on a mission with no guarantees of personal safety and comfort.

Thank you! We are happy to announce that, thanks to our generous supporters, we have reached our \$12,255 fundraising goal for the update of the audio/speaker system. The job will start soon.

[Jesus] said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place."

Illustration

Folk songs are often based on real-life events. This is certainly true of the song "Ellan Vannin", which the Liverpool group, The Spinners, sang and made popular in the '60s.

On 3 December 1909, the paddle steamer SS Ellan Vannin sailed from the Isle of Man towards Liverpool. Without modern technology, nobody expected hurricane-force winds and huge waves which caused the ship to sink with all 15 passengers, 21 crew, mail and 60 tonnes of cargo. The crew left 18 widows and 71 children. The subsequent Board of Trade Enquiry found that Captain James Teare, in unprecedented conditions, had tried to save the ship, which was "in good condition and fully seaworthy". He had done "everything", but "everything" was not enough on this occasion.

Women in the Aran Islands, the Orkneys and Hebrides were also deeply worried about on-board safety and seaworthiness. They became famous for knitting woollen jerseys for their seafaring fishermen brothers, husbands and sons. Each woman, each family, had a unique pattern knit into the jersey. As we buy their exquisite work today, often in very expensive shops, it's easy to overlook the fact that the women were thinking, not only of the warmth of their menfolk, but also planning that, if their loved ones were to be lost at sea, their families could eventually identify them.

Today's seafarers still face uncertainty and, frequently, extreme hardship. A young kitchen worker on a luxury cruise ship described earning less than £1 per hour for her illegally long shifts. Sailing in international waters, who checks on a crew's working conditions?

Gospel teaching

Today's Gospel reminds us of those who go to sea in our service. Jesus tells his disciples, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place." He could have been telling them to stay with their ship until they reached port and could disembark to serve others – not themselves. Jesus was sending them to unfamiliar faces and places where they might long for their families and home comforts. He knew that, travelling on foot, donkey or ship, the disciples might be away from their loved ones for several years at a time. Leaving one port did not guarantee a safe arrival at another, so Jesus knew that he sent his followers on a potentially hazardous mission. They would often work their passage and would, like the sailors, face bad food, water shortages, shipboard diseases, rough seas and sunburn. Jesus told them to travel lightly, without those little extra luxuries which might have made the difference to their comfort and enjoyment.

Yet his disciples still set sail on our behalf. They didn't travel to Greece, Malta or Rome as tourists. St Paul, a tentmaker, wrote about earning his keep through making tents. St Luke, a doctor, probably treated patients. Other disciples resumed their fishing as they also preached the Good News.

Application

A retired Royal Navy Commander reflected, "Today is Sea Sunday, when we are asked to pray for and support all seafarers. One of the burdens of a life at sea, both for the sailor who is departing and for the family and friends being left behind, is separation."

He added, "Having served for many years in the Royal Navy, I have experienced the yoke of separation from family and friends. Saying farewell to loved ones elicits many emotions: anger, sadness, frustration and a sense of loss, to name a few. Birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated at a distance and communication, even with modern technology, can be frustrating and at times maddening. Poor connectivity, a badly worded message, a delayed response, can all lead to misunderstanding and a sense of grievance."

The sacrifice of separation is endured more easily in the knowledge that there is a homecoming at the end. Without this certainty, there is no hope, in the same way that without the certainty of the resurrection after death, we would have little to hope for in this life. Sadly, there are many seafarers who don't know when they will return home and who spend years separated from their families. This was particularly noticeable during the recent coronavirus pandemic. Let us pray today that those overburdened by separation will receive the rest they deserve in the arms of those they love, for there is nothing quite like coming home!"

The sinking of the Ellan Vannin, remembered in song, also shows the dangers faced by seafarers. That's why we pray "for those in peril on the sea". May God be with them.