

Catholic Mass onboard Norse Yokoshima and African Swift

Norse Yokoshima arrived from China on her maiden voyage in high spirits. The crew had emailed in advance to request a Blessing Ceremony to be held onboard. Stella Maris AKL connected us with Father Glenn Lowe, who was pleased to conduct the service onboard accompanied by David Hinchco.

African Swift had been detained and berthed at the Chelsea Sugar Refinery. The new captain wanted to improve crew morale and requested an ordinary Mass be held onboard. Philip Gabriel (Stella Maris AKL) accompanied Fr Glenn to the ship to hold the Mass.

Both crews have expressed their immense gratitude for the efforts to co-ordinate these services.

Wellness at Sea

MW National Welfare Manager Aaron Ironside presented a full day of Wellness at Sea training to the first year cadets at the NZ Maritime School. The modules cover Social, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual Wellness. The school has requested that this training be delivered annually.

Car Carrier Complaint

During the port visit to Auckland, an AB confided that the CO was falsifying overtime and rest records. We contacted the welfare officers in Wellington who arranged a visit from Port State Control and ITF.

Container ship

Following a ship visit a crew member contacted the Centre to complain that the captain had cancelled shore leave as a punishment for the ship failing an inspection. The Port State Controller was contacted and a brief email later, shore leave was restored.

MV XXXX

A crew member emailed to “seek your help about abusing the rights of seafarer for the rest hour & our extra bonus till now not received. Also...my left shoulder is in pain but still they send me to work to climb the crane everyday.” The ship was bound for Tauranga and the case has been passed to the MTS Welfare Officer.

One Big Family

A local charity delivered 12 large bags of donated clothes for the crew. These items have proved incredible popular and helpful as crew are often ill-prepared for sailing between hemispheres and the range of weather conditions.

Sailors Society Global Staff Conference

MW National Welfare Manager Aaron Ironside and MW Executive Director Larry Robbins attended the conference in Southampton. Sailors Society has developed a virtual “Circle of Care” which provides training and support at each stage of a seafarers career including Wellness at Sea, the Crisis Response Network and Peer to Peer WhatsApp groups. These services are now provided to crew visiting ports with Maritime Welfare staff and volunteers.