



Ottawa, September 1st, 2015

Reverend Dr. Graham,

On behalf of the Secretariat of State, I have the honour of informing you that His Holiness Pope Francis has received the letter you sent to him on June 12, 2015.

Approaching the day of the commemoration of the sacrifices of the Canadian Merchant Navy, in the name of the Holy Father, I wish to assure you and all the present members, of a special remembrance in his prayers for the souls of the men and women who lost their lives serving their countries in the Allied Merchant Navy during the Second World War.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of that worldwide conflict, Pope Francis expressed the wish and the hope that the entire human family, learning from the tragedies of the past and faced with the current conflicts around the world "*may persevere in the search for the common good and in promotion of a culture of peace*" (General Audience - May 6, 2015).

Assuring you of the deep appreciation of this Apostolic Nunciature for the activities of the Allied Merchant Navy, I avail of this opportunity to express to you and to those you serve, my cordial regards, while I remain

Yours, sincerely,

MSGR. MAURIZIO BRAVI, P.H.
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Rev. Dr. Brian GRAHAM
Chaplain for the Allied Merchant Navy
906-470 Laurier Avenue West
OTTAWA, Ontario K1R 7W9



ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

The Reverend Dr Brian Graham
Chaplain for the Allied Merchant Navy Project
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Canada

21st July 2017

Dear Veterans of the Allied Merchant Navies,

As an Island Nation we in the United Kingdom still depend heavily on the great trade routes of the sea. So much of what we take for granted in our daily lives is brought to us by container ship and tanker. During the Second World War that vital lifeline came very near to being severed. The stark courage of the sailors of the Merchant Navy should never be forgotten, and I write to assure you of my prayers of thankfulness for all that our forebears and elders achieved despite their great suffering.

I pray too for those who ply their trade at sea today, for their wellbeing and protection. May they come to know a world where they can sail the oceans of our world in peace, without the fear of war or piracy.

I pray for God's blessing through Jesus Christ on all in the Merchant Navy.

*Yours sincerely
Justin Welby*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness



Most Reverend Mark Strange Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness: Primus

Diocesan Office
9-11 Kenneth Street
Inverness
IV3 5NR
14th August 2017

To the Allied Merchant Navy

I am writing this short letter to you shortly after returning from a Pastoral Visit to the Western Side of my Diocese. I drove through Achansheen and down to the deep water sea lochs of Loch Ewe and Loch Kishorn. It is impossible to visit those communities without being aware of the great sacrifice made by the many merchant seamen who set sail from this coast during the Second World War. We commemorate annually the sailors of the Arctic Convoys at the memorial outside Poolewe.

I therefore gladly offer my prayers and blessings to all those are Veterans of the Allied Merchant Navies, this nations life-blood in times of conflict.

I offer this ancient Gaelic Prayer,

God be with you in every pass,
Jesus be with you on every hill,
Spirit be with you on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn.

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
each lying down, each rising up,
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey you go.

Blessings

+Mark Moray: Primus

+Mark Moray: Primus



Y R EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU THE CHURCH IN WALES



ESGOB ABERTAWE AC ABERHONDDU, Y GWIR BARCHEDIG JOHN D E DAVIES
BISHOP OF SWANSEA AND BRECON, THE RIGHT REV'D JOHN D E DAVIES



The Rev. Dr. Brian Graham,
Chaplain,
Allied Merchant Navy Project.

3rd August 2017.

Dear Dr Graham,

On behalf of the Church in Wales, I send you warmest greetings coupled with very best wishes for the ongoing efforts which, by means of the Allied Merchant Navy Project, you and others are making to highlight both the contributions and sacrifices made by Merchant Mariners in time of war.

As you stated in your letter, age and illness take their toll, and those with direct experiences become ever-fewer in number. It is, therefore, all the more important for efforts to be made to ensure that such valiant and courageous contributions are remembered by current and future generations. The fact that a number of governments, including that of the United Kingdom, have passed legislation to facilitate and encourage appropriate and regular commemorations is, therefore, most welcome and to be applauded.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that I have asked my fellow-bishops here in Wales to invite the clergy of their respective dioceses to offer prayers on Sunday, September 3rd giving thanks for those who, in World War 2, as members of the Allied Merchant Navies, paid the ultimate price in the service of their countries and in the cause of peace. I have also asked that they offer prayers for those who have died in the intervening years since and for those who still bear the scars of either conflict or bereavement.

The countless tragedies and sacrifices of the past are in danger of becoming empty and meaningless unless they are understood as events from which lessons for the present and the future are learned about the importance of seeking peace, harmony and freedom for all the world's nations and peoples. As these prayers are offered, I trust that they will provide fitting and poignant inspiration to all who hear them to persevere in living in peace, working for peace and supporting those who, trapped in conflicts in our own time, long for peace.

Be assured of our blessings upon the efforts which you and your colleagues are making to ensure that the particular people, events and sacrifices which you remember provide that much-needed inspiration to others today.

John Swannell Brecon

Bishop of Swansea & Brecon and Senior Bishop of the Church in Wales.



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

THE MOST REVEREND DR PHILIP FREIER
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

21 July 2017

The Reverend Dr Brian Graham
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Dear Dr Graham

Thank you for your letter of 19 June about the Allied Merchant Navy Project. As you indicate, it is becoming increasingly important to mark the contribution of the Merchant Navies as the numbers of those who served dwindle.

The Church knows the profound importance and value of telling stories, and above all, the story of our salvation. That same story would have provided comfort to members of the Merchant Navies as they faced the dangers of war. Their stories of courage and perseverance are an example for the generations who have lived in peace since the end of the Second World War.

Will you please convey my greetings to veterans of the Merchant Navies and encourage them in their efforts to ensure that the memory of their service lives on. I pray our Lord's blessings on them and for the Allied Merchant Navy Project.

In response to your request, I will certainly encourage parishes in the Diocese of Melbourne to offer special prayers on Sunday 3 September.

Grace and peace in Christ Jesus

Yours sincerely

The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Primate

PS. You have my permission to post this letter on the Project's website.

Making the Word of God fully known