

# Foreword

Why would the UK National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic organisation, be invited to write the foreword to a book about an early pioneer of nineteenth-century Church of England work among merchant seafarers who in his later years was virulently anti-Catholic?

There is a simple answer. The subject, John Ashley, whose influence has featured prominently in most published versions of the foundation of the Anglican Missions to Seamen (now Mission to Seafarers) also features in the distant ancestry of the modern work of the Catholic Church among seafarers via the Thames Church Mission, the (Royal) National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and thence to the *Cœuvres de Mer* and the inspiration of Peter Anson and the present form of the Apostleship of the Sea.

This foreword allows me to attest the great progress that has been made away from Christian disunity, to the point at which today's several church societies work among seafarers do so with a great measure of harmony and goodwill, something for which I thank God.

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