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*The Fish that Plugged a Hole in a Ship*

*No-one can count the number of ways in which the Virgin can aid her own*

For she aids those who call on her in distress and grief and pain and in storms at sea, on which I have a miracle to tell.

In the Kingdom of Murcia there is a town which is very strong and fine, and stands on the coast, and I swear on my honour that you will not easily see its like.

The town is called Alicante and many people go there by sea and by land, for it is where people are well able to prosper.

And so from Cartagena a ship set off - I know as I have seen those who saw it - and on its way its hull was breached so that it took in a great quantity of water.

Those who were on the ship prayed to the Saints but a good man said "None can help you as well

as the Virgin who is the mother of God, who always helps and rescues her own, and so, my friends, let us now ask her for help without delay".

And they did this at once, and after they had looked at where the water was entering the ship they pondered what to do.

And their decision was this: before anything else they would clear the water out of the ship. But the Lady who aids those in distress came to their aid.

For where the ship was holed she placed three fish in the gap, so that no water could come in or out once it was blocked.

Those on the ship were delighted when they saw this, and they gave thanks for it to that Lady who protects us, and then they carried on to land

in Alicante; and as soon as the ship arrived, the captain went to look at where the water was entering, and found three fish wedged in the hole

in the ship, so well that not even the most skilled captain or the best carpenter could have sealed it better with anything else to fill the hole.

And then the captain took the fish and ate the two that were dead, and the one that was still alive he displayed before the altar, for all to see

in the church of the mother of the great King who has performed many miracles, as I well know, wherefore I praise her every day, and will praise her as long as I live.