

**FREE - Please take your copy**



**Short stay -**

# **Big Legacy**

***Fr. Paul will be leaving Sittingbourne on 30th June***

**Fr Paul's short stay with us has been inspirational and memorable; his great energy never waived; his commitment to our School and Parish was rewarded by the pleasure and learning we all experienced.**

**His homily each week gave a very personal, unique and different insight into the Gospel stories. He explained interpretations in a way that was understood by all in the congregation; he portrayed Jesus as a very loving, human person.**

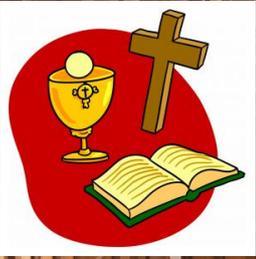
**Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you." Fr Paul has put this teaching into practice by showing his love for us. It's his legacy - *let us build on this and try to 'Love one another, as Fr Paul loved us.'***

**There are very many people in Sittingbourne saddened at Fr. Paul's departure. God bless you, Fr. Paul, and THANK YOU.**

Fr. Paul has been Parish Administrator covering for Fr. Jim who is currently on Sabbatical in the Philippines. Fr. Jim will return from the Philippines at the end of June and will prepare for his new appointment as Parish Priest of Hythe, which he will take up during the week following 14th July.

Fr. Malachy, a regular visitor to our Parish, will cover for the last two weekends in July and we will welcome Fr. Dennis from Nigeria who will be with us during August.

Father Graziano from Italy will join us from the first week in September.



# Aylesford Retreat in preparation for...



The Retreat was led by Fr Paul and the Whitstable Youth



**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**  
SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS

Congratulations to the Knights of St Columba who have been active in our Parish for over 90 years this month! The Knights of St Columba is a fraternal service organisation, founded in Glasgow in 1919. It is named in honour of Saint Columba, a Christian missionary from Ireland who helped introduce Christianity to some of the people in the north of Britain.

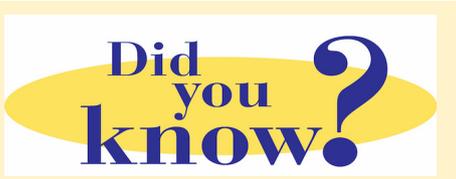


**KEEP THE DATE FREE**

All Parishioners are invited to Aylesford Priory on Saturday 15th June for a Parish Family BBQ. The event is planned to be held in the walled garden—the entrance will be via the Rosary Garden. Mass will be celebrated at 1pm [optional for those who chose to attend] followed by the BBQ and a fun packed afternoon. BBQ food and soft drinks will be provided free of charge, and you are welcome to take your own 'non soft drinks' and rug to sit on!

**Activities will be provided for the children. This is not planned as a fundraising event—simply an afternoon of hopefully sun and fun!**

The name Sittingbourne comes from the Saxon for “the hamlet by the stream”. This stream referred to is now hidden and passes under the main road near St Michael’s Church. When the present cinema and bingo building was first opened as the Odeon Cinema, every time it poured with rain the front two or three rows of seats could not be occupied because of flooding!



## ...First Holy Communion



We will publish more First Holy Communion pictures in the next issue.



## Serving Brothers

For the first time Kieran joined brother Ryan on the Altar, following his First Holy Communion, with proud parents Carole and Kevin McGahern at the Mass.



## PROVING SCRIPTURE'S NOT DULL



Each week, on a Wednesday evening, a lively group of Parishioners meet at the Convent to read, pray and discuss the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday. Their evenings begin at 8pm with prayers for the needs of the Parish, the wider church, families and friends and those in need throughout the world. Meetings last one hour. Why not join the group? You will make new friends and be made most welcome. For more information turn up next Wednesday, or leave your name and telephone number with the parish office [01795 555708]

An Irish Blessing:

May the roof of your house never fall in and those beneath it never fall out.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special 'thank you' to Fr Paul, Sr. Kate, Jenny Hill and Sue McGoldrick for contributing to this issue.

Please send your items for inclusion in a future edition to:  
[parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk)

Your communication will be acknowledged and items returned if required.



Our Church is dedicated in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a symbol of Divine Love for mankind. It was built by international subscription and opened for worship on 27th August 1902. The design is in part copied from the village church at Nun Monkton, near York. At that time, Sittingbourne was the centre of the brick trade and so the Church was built with local bricks, with decoration in Bath and Caen stone and different kinds of marbles. The architect was William Leonard Grant and the principal contractor Mr E Bishop, both local men.

On the frontage of the Church facing the main road, there are three statues. Over the doorway is that of Jesus revealing His Love for men. On the right is that of St Augustine, who is said to have preached in Sittingbourne, and on the left that of St Thomas of Canterbury, as a reminder of the mediaeval pilgrims who passed this way on the road to his Shrine at Canterbury Cathedral.

**"Something to look out for when I next pass by"**

# A Family Affair - Cousins Baptised Together



It was a real family day on 28th April when cousins Austin James Woodcock Jackson and Rory Kingsnorth were baptised into our Church. The Church was packed with family members and friends. Thrilled Grandparents Mike and Karen Woodcock collected many treasured photos of the occasion and supported their daughters, Rebecca and Victoria, the 'new mums!' [Both sisters were pupils at St Peter's School and Mike helped with Confirmation classes for several years.] *Karen and Mike currently run Oad Street Food and Crafts, which has built up a fine reputation for its hospitality and service.*



## IN THE NEWS AGAIN!

Once again St Peter's School helps make the news! This time it was at the Schools' tag rugby festival to help bring awareness of the abuse of women. More than 200 children formed 23 teams and schools across Swale took part. The event was organised by the Sheppey and Sittingbourne School Sports Partnership and hosted by Sittingbourne Rugby Club. This year the festival was dedicated to spreading the word about the White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to end male violence against women. There was no overall winning team—all those who took part went home with a medal.

[Pictures: Chris Davey, Sittingbourne News Extra]



## NEW RECRUITS to serve on the Altar

Here's a lovely picture for the family album! New Altar Servers pose outside church after Mass on 26th May. Congratulations and well done to you all.

Catenian membership offers deep and lasting friendship and support to Catholic men at all stages of their lives, whether married or single. This friendship is based on the firm foundation of a shared faith and is enjoyed by their wives (whether Catholic or not), their children and continues after a member's death with widows being supported and involved on a continuing basis. The monthly meeting provides a time for relaxed enjoyment among supporting and faithful friends. The varied local social programme caters for all ages and provides a light-hearted environment in which friendships flourish.



The local Catenian Circle to our church is SWALE and members are drawn from across Swale and parts of Medway. Several of our parishioners are members so if you are interested in finding out more about the Association, contact the Membership Secretary, Michel Micallef 01634 819539, or email *Parish Montage* and we will pass your name on.

Meetings take place at the UK Paper Club, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, on the second Tuesday of each month.

## Parish Montage is now online

Help your friends and colleagues who may have left the area stay in touch.

Visit the Parish Website: [www.rcsittingbourne.org.uk](http://www.rcsittingbourne.org.uk) Parish Montage can be directly contacted by email: [parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk)