

Who are the Catenians?

The Catenian Association is an international community of local groups of Catholic friends who meet regularly to enjoy each other's company and support each other. Members form an international network with the chance to offer each other life-long support and friendship reflecting our family lives and our social values. Our members are drawn from all walks of life and, consequently, in our Association we have a vast range of differing talents, skills and experiences. There are over 300 Circles in the UK and abroad, currently something around 8,000 members.

In joining your local Circle (or branch of the Association) you have become a member of the Great Britain Catenian Association, and a member of the Catenian Association world-wide.

Our Association is all about making long-term supportive friendships and having fun with like-minded people and their families. Our members are always 'there for each other', particularly in times of difficulty or need.

Being 'there' for each other takes many forms – it may be by simply sharing experiences, lending an understanding ear, showing compassion or a helping hand, or offering advice; it may be by telling unpalatable truths; it may be by introducing contacts and making connections, and in some cases it may mean by offering practical financial support. Elsewhere in this Welcome Pack you will find details of our self-help charitable fund, the Benevolent and Childrens' Fund which is the means by which we ask our members to regularly contribute and financially support each other.

Catenians are non-political and whilst we all have different views and have many spirited debates and discussions at our meetings, it is always amongst friends. We are not a fundraising organisation but we do engage in a lot of Christian charity and our Circles in the UK alone raise around £200k a year to support a whole range of local, national and in some cases, international, charities.

Our principle focus is and always has been, to encourage and support the development of Catholic youth throughout the world, and our second charity, the Catenian Bursary Fund, exists to 'help young Catholics help others'. You can read all about the Bursary Fund elsewhere in this folder.

As you will see from the map on the back of this folder we in the GB Association also look after the Circles on the island of Ireland – and include Circles in the Channel Islands and the Isle of White.

Actually your new family of friends and contacts is truly world-wide and we have Circles in Australia, Malta, The Holy Land, Africa, India, and Bangladesh. Truly, you are now always among friends.

Elsewhere in this folder you will read all about your local Province and the other Circles in your area. Do make the most of your membership and get out and meet your new friends and establish your own network of contacts.

Once again, a very warm welcome to our Association.