

SALISBURY CATENIANS NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Province 11 Circle 266
Founded 14th March 1972
Current membership 25

Circle Website: <https://www.salisburycatenians.org>



Mass for Deceased Brothers

On 12 November the Mass for Deceased Salisbury Brothers was held at the 10:00am Mass at St Gregory's Church. There was a good turnout of Brothers, Wives and Widows. Afterwards we joined Parishioners for Tea and Biscuits in St Gregory's Hall. Some of our group then enjoyed a Fish & Chips lunch in town.

Presentation of the Catenian Cup, at St Josephs Catholic School

President Kevin Lynn, along with Brothers Steve Carrivick & Albert Rhodes had the pleasure of attending the "Year 22 Presentation for the Class of '25", including the award of the Catenian Cup. The following is the text of the presentation speech to the winner of the Catenian Cup.

Tonight, we are delighted to present the Catenians Cup, an award given to a student who has shown an outstanding commitment to living out Catholic Social Teaching in both their studies and their daily life here at St Joseph's. This year's recipient, Maria Tony, has consistently demonstrated compassion, integrity, and a deep sense of justice. Through her work and her example, she has shown what it truly means to recognise the dignity of every person, to care for the vulnerable, and to build a community rooted in faith and service. Maria has not only excelled in her learning—she has lived the values we cherish. She reminds us all that Catholic education calls us to action, to kindness, and to hope.



This Month

No Council meeting or Circle meeting this month

Circle Christmas Party
Wednesday 10th December.

Anniversaries

Enrolments:

Michael Cairns 60 yrs,

John Detain 17 yrs

Phil Jones 13 yrs

Birthdays:

Joe Falzon

Richard Hilliard

John Detain

David Gillen

Tony Sadler

Ladies Birthdays:

Patricia Morehead

Wedding Anniversaries:

Adrian & Juie Holloway

Eamon & Collette Duffin

See end of the Newsletter for the "Circle Meetings & Dinner Planner" and also the "Events Diary"



Pictures courtesy of Brother Albert.

Christmas Party

Circle Christmas Party, Wednesday 10th December, Drinks from 6:00pm and mingling, Sit down for meal 6:45pm

Dress Code: As You Please

Dinning Cost: £35. Brothers are kindly asked to advise the Dining Secretary Steve Carrivick of their dining intentions, menu selection plus any dietary requirements, especially allergies, no later than **Friday 5th December**

If you haven't yet responded, please do so ASAP. Our Christmas Party is always a memorable and enjoyable event. Brother David Gillen has prepared a Quiz for the evening, and we will have the traditional Christmas Carols and songs. "The 12 days of Christmas" is a particularly raucous, energetic and fun renditioning. We will be having a raffle which following this year's very successful "Mission to Malta" project, will go to support a repeat venture in April 2026 when another group of our military veterans will travel to Malta to undertake restoration work at Fort Delimara.

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Starter

Parsnip and Chestnut Soup.

Chicken Liver and Cognac Pate, Tomato Chutney, Toasted Brioche.

Salmon and Spring Onion Fishcake, lemon & Chilli Mayo.

Beetroot and Goats Cheese Salad, Pickled Vegetables.

Main Course

Roast Turkey with Traditional Trimmings.

Braised Blade of Beef, Tomato and Shallot Sauce.

Baked Cod Fillet, Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Sauce.

Baked Nut Roast with Vegetarian Gravy.

Served with Potatoes and Vegetables.

Dessert

Christmas Pudding, Christmas Pudding Ice-cream.

Tangy Lemon and White Chocolate Parfait, Crushed Raspberries.

Chocolate Praline Ice-cream Bombe, Toasted Nuts, Cherry Compote.

Bakewell Tart with Raspberry Sorbet.

Selection of Cheddar, Brie and Stilton, Grapes, Celery, Chutney and Savoury Biscuits - £4.00
supplementary charge.

Don't forget your tickets for the Salisbury Swindle

Each square selected costs only £2, with a monthly prize of £20. The draw takes place after the monthly circle meeting during the meal. Squares may be purchased on the night or you can choose from the available numbers and pay in advance, see our Treasurer for details. Profits go to the Presidents Charities, which this year is the Parish Poor Fund.

Brothers are reminded that photographs may be taken at our Circle functions for inclusion in the Newsletter and our website unless an objection has been notified. Please advise any of your visitors accordingly.

Officers

President	Kevin Lynn	Vice President	Gary Porter
Imm. Past President	Steve Carrivick	Provincial Councillor	Joe Falzon
Secretary	Albert Rhodes	Treasurer	Allan Trowbridge
Presidents Marshall	Ziggy Kajota	Registrar	David Gillen
Welfare	John Dettain	Charities	Phil Jones
Dining Secretary	Steve Carrivick	Benevolence Board	David Morehead
Membership	<i>vacant</i>	Chamberlain	David Morehead
Press & Publicity	Eamon Duffin	Newsletter & Website	Richard Verrian

Poets Corner

By Brother Eric

A Seasonal contribution from Brother Eric. This will be the last of Brother Eric's contributions to our monthly Newsletter for the time being. However he will no doubt make the occasional contribution from time to time.

December

Try not to think, draw down the blinds, close
Off the murmurings of memory, suppose
Nothing. Hush now, still now, on this breath,
Let us stay here, stopped in simulated death.

On the 4th Sunday in Advent

Another week passed
an extra candle tenderly lit
our focus tapers toward
the imagined spark
to ignite revolution
again as thank God
it will each year
as the drear days
slacken as the nights
nudge toward midwinter's
pause on the pivot
of change for the annual
renewal of expectancy
the long- rehearsed
anticipation's reward of
a baby's first gasping cry
bursting into flame :
the breath of light
at last risen as the Son
kindles joy in beams of love.

From Darkness To Light

We look from afar in search of God's power,
waiting for candle flames to kindle hope's
spreading fire, the touch of a taper to catch
our chilled souls in a leap of inspiration,
watch our fears and failures flicker in
the silent progress of unfolding light. Afar
yet so close, we thousand onlookers peer
through the blackout to discern a glimmer of
faith's faltering feel beyond blindness stand
tall, stretch up and out, clasp winter's icy clutch
in the close embrace of love come here tonight
to unite us with the disparate deceased; their
shadows emerge from the arching transepts of
centuries of unceased worship to re-engage,
renew this ageless ritual that transcends the
desperation of war's ravenous desolation,
holds us with the grieving in breathless wonder,
at one in the choir's lifted voice, the organ's
thunder.

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From A Chaplet of Joy

The Annunciation (Lk 1:30-33,38)

With Gabriel, we watch as you receive this amazing mystery
In words whose message will change your life to bring us hope
When God enters you to conceive an altered history.

Your answer shows us your trust : you are not afraid,
But open to God's surprises, readily reply: "Let it be
With me according to your will, for I am your handmaid".

Sweet Mary of Nazareth, I pray that I may follow you:
May I truly let God into my life, be ready to answer His call.
Please help me find your faith in His strength to serve as you do.

The Visitation (Lk 1:39-47)

With Elizabeth, we bless you as she receives your greeting :

You bring in your womb God's gift of joy that lets the babe
In her womb leap in delight : we rejoice with you, meeting

Your love as you worship our Saviour and sing to us in bliss,
Praising and thanking Him for His infinite mercy, sharing
Your heartfelt gratitude for His wonderful gift of happiness.

Dear Mary, I pray that I may always thank Him too!
"My soul magnifies the Lord" must be my motto. How
Happy to be thankful for every day's gifts – like you!

The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:6-12)

With the shepherds, we kneel in awe before Christ's birth.

The light of God's grace dazzles the dark winter night :
God comes to us as your baby, vulnerable on this earth;

Life's meaning cradled in a stable in the warmth of your breast,
The immensity of God's powerful love and mercy given for us.
Mary, our mother, protect and comfort us, bring peace and rest.

We marvel at the miracle of our Father's tender love, not apart
But here, all-powerful yet poor and small like one of us.
May I keep watch with you, thank Him from the depths of my heart.

December Morning

The restless river reaches out,
soaks the drooping branches,
searches up the bridged arches.

I think of hope nourished by
faith, the psalmist's images,
happiness like a river, or a
tree planted by flowing waters.

Bedraggled, faded, forgotten,
rows of faded pansies are roused
to tremble in this moist murmur
stirring memories with this autumn's
abandoned leaves, soon suddenly
sinks to a drone beneath duetting
trebles, sparring robins spanning
the river's restless rampant pursuit,
sweet piercing snatches of melody
matching strength, asserting belief,
echoes to challenge, resound through
winter's bitter threat, encourage
the blessed promise of survival, a
summer perhaps that I may share.

Eric Williams

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Events Diary

Date	Event	Notes
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Party.	No meeting
TBA	Michael Cairns – 60 Year scroll presentation.	National President Gerry McCormack to attend and make the presentation, at M Cairns at home in Worcester in the New year.
20 – 23 March 2026	Provincial Weekend	Provincial event at Cricket St Thomas, Chard
8 – 10 May 2026	GBNC Gathering & Conference	Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwickshire

Meetings & Dinner Planner 2025 – 26

Month	Date	Lunch / Dinner	Courses	Gents / ladies	Mtg Time	Meal Start
December ^{Note 1}	Wednesday 10 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1800	1845
January	Thursday 22 nd	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
February	Thursday 26 th	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
March ^{Note 2}	Thursday 26 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1830	1930

Meetings & Dinner Planner 2026 – 27

Month	Date	Lunch / Dinner	Courses	Gents / ladies	Mtg Time	Meal Start
April ^{Note 3}	Thursday 23 rd	Evening	Two	Gents	1800	1930
May	Thursday 28 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1830	1930
June	Thursday 25 th	Evening	Two	Gents	1830	1930
July	Thursday 23 rd	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1830	1930
August ^{Note 4}	TBA					
September	Thursday 24 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1830	1930
October	Thursday 22 nd	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
November	Thursday 26 th	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
December ^{Note 1}	Wednesday 9 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1800	1845
January	Thursday 28 th	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
February	Thursday 25 th	Lunch	Two	Gents & Ladies	1200	1300
March ^{Note 2}	Thursday 18 th	Evening	Three	Gents & Ladies	1830	1930

1. December, Christmas Party, no meeting, no dress code. Arrival/Drinks from 1800.
2. March, Charter Night, Black Tie or Lounge Suit. NB 2027 Meeting brought forward by 1 week to avoid clash with Easter
3. April, earlier start time due to AGM immediately before Circle meeting.
4. Joint meeting with Andover Circle (Hosted by Andover in 2026).

Registration commences 15 mins prior to meeting time: i.e. 1145 or 1815.

Lunchtime meetings Oct/Nov & Jan/Feb