



**Scottish Catholic Education Community
National Schools' Mass
to mark the centenary of the 1918 Education (Scotland Act)
Falkirk Football Stadium
Thursday 14th June 2018- 1pm**



19th March 2018

Dear Head Teacher colleagues,

On behalf of the Bishops of Scotland I would like to invite you, and your school community, to participate in the National Catholic Schools' Mass in Falkirk Stadium, at 1pm, on Thursday 14th June 2018.

This Mass is the highlight of our calendar of events to mark the centenary of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act. I am delighted that on this occasion every Catholic school in Scotland will be able to gather as a community of faith and learning and celebrate Mass together. This is the first time that such a gathering has taken place and it is very fitting that it should be to mark such an historic moment in the story of our faith community. It is equally appropriate that this occasion should fall during Scotland's Year of Young People, acknowledging the place that Catholic schools have in the development of the gifts and talents of our children and the participation of our pupils in civic life.

I would invite all schools to co-ordinate their participation in the Mass at a cluster level. This will ensure that there is equal representation from all clusters and Dioceses and contribute to making this a community event. Could I therefore ask you to consider how many people from your school community will be able to attend and then make ONE TICKET REQUEST per cluster, using the link overleaf. I am able to guarantee that each cluster of schools will receive 150 tickets for the Mass, should they request them.

Please find below information regarding the Mass, including the details of the Liturgy for the Mass. We hope that having these details in advance will assist in the preparations within schools prior to attending the Mass.

If you have any queries regarding the Mass, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your support of this unique and historic Mass.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Coupar
Director

Scottish Catholic Education Service

National Schools' Mass Information Pack

Location:

Falkirk Football Club, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Falkirk+Stadium/@56.005369,-3.75261,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x8650656aee7fcff6!8m2!3d56.005369!4d-3.75261>

Timings of day:

11am From 11am, schools can gain access to stadium

12.15pm 'Hymn Practice'

12.35pm Grand welcome, school banner parade

12.50pm Time of silence in preparation for Holy Mass

1pm Celebration of Holy Mass

3pm* Conclusion and departure

Schools will be directed to leave the stands by stadium security stewards, buses will be phased for departure by police and security stewards

*Please note that while we are planning for Mass to be concluded by 3pm we cannot guarantee this.

Ticket allocation:

We are expecting a capacity crowd of 8,500 friends of Catholic Education to participate in this historic occasion. In order to ensure that as many people as possible are able to attend we are asking schools to register their request for tickets as soon as possible, and **before the 20th April**.

We request that all schools organise their booking as a cluster. This will ensure that all schools have an equal chance to be represented. It also means that we can group cluster schools together for their allocated seating. In addition, this will reduce costs for transport, ease the demand for coach bookings AND allow all registered cluster coaches to park on site at the stadium.

Please nominate one school within your cluster to complete the online booking form for cluster tickets. Schools will be guaranteed 150 seats per cluster OR 20 seats for those schools not associated with a cluster.

There is a small fee of £3 per person to assist with the costs of the Mass. Once ticket numbers have been confirmed an invoice will be sent to the nominated contact in each cluster. The invoice should be paid in advance of the Mass.

Only ONE application for tickets will be accepted per cluster. Ticket requests should be made here:

<https://form.jotformeu.com/80772149136358>

Coach Parking:

All registered coaches will be allocated a parking zone near the stadium. We are hopeful that all coaches will park on site at Falkirk stadium. We therefore request that all clusters inform SCES of the number of coaches booked and the name of the coach company used. A parking permit will be issued for all registered coaches. Registration of coaches can be done on the ticket booking form.

Car Parking:

For the safety of pupils, and to ensure that as many coaches as possible are able to park within the grounds of Falkirk Stadium, the car park will be closed to individuals.

On Site Facilities:

The stadium has toilet facilities on site.

Catering kiosks where hot and cold food and beverages can be purchased. Please note that these will close at 12.30pm. **Pupils can bring a packed lunch for eating prior to Mass.** There will be an 'eco-clean up' of all rubbish before Mass begins. The congregation will be invited to respect one hour of fasting before Holy Communion.

First Aid:

As with all pre planned events at Falkirk Stadium, there will be the necessary provision of first aid on site. We would request that all school groups follow their local authority protocols regarding risk assessment, safety and the number of registered first aiders accompanying their own group.

Security Searches:

In line with the current security status for all public events, a bag search may be in place at the point of entry to the stadium. Please encourage pupils to only take what is necessary into the Mass. This search will be conducted by qualified security stewards.

Weather Conditions:

We are hopeful that the 14th June will be a glorious sunny day, however, we recommend that pupils bring suitable clothing for all weather. **Umbrellas will not be permitted in the stadium**, we therefore suggest that waterproof clothing is considered. The majority of the seating is within the stadium stands, which has a partial roof. There will also be seating on the main pitch and this will not have any covering.

School Banners:

Due to health and safety, School banners will not be permitted to be displayed during the Mass.

We will have a school banner parade before Mass. One banner bearer will be invited to process in the parade while each school name is read aloud from the stage. The banners will be held at the front of the stage for all to see. After the banner parade the pupils will return to their seat, with their banner for the start of Mass. The banner holder must therefore have an allocated seat. The banner should be able to be stored during Mass.

If you would like to participate in this, please bring your banner to the Mass.

Preparing For Mass

We would ask all schools to begin to prepare for the celebration of Mass by sharing the details of the Liturgy with those who will be attending. Pupils should be reminded of the different parts of the Mass and encouraged to become familiar with the gestures and postures during Mass.

A Mass booklet will be produced and sent to all schools by the end of April. We would ask that each school uses this to assist their pupils to prepare for the National Mass. Please print and bring copies for each of the people in your group, so that the pupils can fully participate in the liturgy.

To assist with the preparations for Mass, a link to a recording of the Hymns and Mass parts will be available on the SCES website and details sent to all schools by the end of April

Liturgy of Mass

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Psalm: 145, The Lord is loving the Lord is kind (G Fitzpatrick arrangement)

2nd Reading: Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18

Celtic Alleluia

Gospel: John 13: 2a, 4-5, 12-17

Sung Mass Parts: Mass of Christ the Saviour

Preface - Spoken

Hymns

Prelude This Is Our Faith (sung by choir before Mass)

Processional Jesus Christ, You are my life

Opening Hymn Here I am Lord

Offertory Lord I give my life to you

Be still for the presence of the Lord

Holy Communion Bread of life, truth eternal

Take and eat

One bread one body

This is my body

Ave Verum (sung by soloist)

Recessional The Summons