



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



20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Reverend Father,

On behalf of the Bishops of Scotland I would like to invite you to concelebrate at the National Catholic Schools' Mass in Falkirk Stadium at 1pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

The clergy are a vital part of the life of Catholic schools, and we hope that as many priests as possible will be able to be present and concelebrate at this Mass. Could I ask you to bring this letter to any other priests or deacons who are resident within your parish, inviting them to join us at this event.

In order to ensure that we have the necessary preparations in place on the stage to accommodate all of the priests wishing to concelebrate, if you are able to attend, could you please complete the on line registration form or email [mail@sces.uk.com](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com). The registration form can be found at: <https://form.jotformeu.com/80783880836369> We would request that all priests bring an alb: vestments will be provided. On arriving we would ask priests to make their way to the 'home dressing room' (access can be gained through the tunnel from the pitch), where light refreshments will be available before Mass.

Please find below information regarding the Mass that has been sent to all schools, 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.

In order to cover the associated costs of the Mass we would welcome donations from parishes. Any donations can be made directly to the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

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:

<b>11am</b>	From 11am, the congregation can gain access to stadium
<b>12.15pm</b>	'Hymn Practice'
<b>12.30pm</b>	Priests gather in 'Home changing room' to vest (access through tunnel from pitch)
<b>12.35pm</b>	Grand welcome, school banner parade
<b>12.50pm</b>	Time of silence in preparation for Holy Mass
<b>1pm</b>	Celebration of Holy Mass
<b>3pm*</b>	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:

**Please make ONE application for tickets per parish. Ticket requests should be made here:**

<https://form.jotformeu.com/80783880836369>

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 you to register your request for tickets as soon as possible, and **before the 20<sup>th</sup> April**.

We have requested 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.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 have asked 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

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18

Celtic Alleluia

Gospel: John 13: 1-17

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