

Scottish Catholic Education Service
National Schools' Mass
14th June 2018
Falkirk Stadium



4th June 2018

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for registering to attend the National Schools' Mass in Falkirk Stadium on the 14th June at 1pm.

We are delighted that over 8,000 young people from every diocese in Scotland will be present with you and the 8 Bishops of Scotland in celebrating this Mass. It is an historic occasion and the first time that we have ever gathered every school cluster in Scotland together for such a celebration.

Please find on the following pages the key information required for attendance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Could I please ask you to pass all of this on to the head teacher colleagues in your cluster.

We are currently finalising the details required to stream the Mass live. As soon as I have the link for this I will forward it to all schools.

Thank you for your support for the Scottish Catholic Education Service and for our celebrations to mark this historic year.

I hope that I have the chance to meet you in person on the day, but if not I am sure that you will have a rich experience sharing this occasion with our pupils and guests.

With kindest regards,
Barbara Coupar

Programme for the day

Thursday 14th June

From

11.30am arrival of congregation – all schools will arrive on coaches. There will be stewards from Traffic Management Team directing parking around the perimeter of the stadium. Pupils and staff will access the stadium through ground floor 'exit' gates and go to allocated seating area.

From 11.30am there will be a welcome programme from the stage. This will include video clips from each Diocese, taken from the documentary "Catholic Schools Good For Scotland"

12.15pm 'Hymn Practice' – the choir will lead the congregation through some of the hymns and Mass parts.

12.30pm Catering kiosks will close. Eco-clean up of the stadium in preparation for Mass.

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 official stewards, buses by Traffic Management stewards

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

SCES has been working with Police Scotland and Falkirk Council to try to ensure the safety and comfort of all those attending the Mass.

We have been required to use a Traffic Management Company and the following information comes directly from them. We would request that you pass this information on to your coach drivers and ask that they follow the information.

- ✚ Health and Safety has dictated that only 100 coaches can park at the stadium.
- ✚ All other coaches will use a drop off zone and be required to park off site.
- ✚ All coaches must approach the stadium via the main entrance on the A9 (across from the Fire Station).
- ✚ At the end of Mass Pick Up Zone coaches will be stacked, ready for schools to access them at the same point as you were dropped off.

- ✚ Parked coaches will exit on to the A904 and a traffic management system will be in place to allow direct access to the Motorway.

- ✚ Pick Up Zone coaches will exit on to the A9 and will have direct access to the Motorway via the A9 (for East bound) and A904 for West/North and Southbound.

Action Required

- ✚ **We have included your coach permit(s). If you have been issued with a parking permit and do not require it, please contact SCES immediately so that it can be re-issued to another cluster.**

STADIUM INFORMATION

Seating

I am pleased to include your seating information. **Please bring this with you on the day.** Each cluster will require an individual ticket. **Access to the stadium will only be for the number stated on your ticket.**

Each block will be reserved for those with the correct Ticket colour **and** code. The seating within the block is unreserved and seats will be filled as people arrive, on a first come first seated basis. We would ask for your assistance in ensuring that there are no spaces left between seats.

Key Information

- ✚ The stadium will be open from 11.30am
- ✚ Mass will begin at 1pm
- ✚ There will be security stewards on each gate and large bags will be searched. We would therefore ask that pupils only bring essential items and that no large holdalls or cases are brought into the venue.

- ✚ Pupils can eat their packed lunch in the stadium.
- ✚ Catering kiosks will be open until 12.30pm for food and refreshments.
- ✚ We will have an eco-clean up of the stadium before Mass begins and we would very much appreciate your assistance in ensuring that we do not leave any rubbish in the stands.
- ✚ We would ask you to remember that the Mass will be celebrated outdoors. While your seats in the stands will be covered, those allocated on the pitch are not. Unfortunately we cannot plan for the weather, and would suggest that you come ready for whatever the Scottish climate has in store for us that day.
- ✚ SCES volunteers will be wearing Yellow and Orange High visibility jackets. If you need any assistance during the day please approach one of our team.
- ✚ There will be designated first aiders within the stadium throughout the event.

Banner Parade

- ✚ All schools are invited to participate in the Banner Parade.
- ✚ Schools should bring their banner on the day.
- ✚ Pupils carrying the banners should assemble at 12.15pm at the side of the stage (stage left).
- ✚ The parade will begin at 12.35pm.
- ✚ Pupils will be led throughout the parade.
- ✚ At the end of the parade pupils will return to their seat, taking their banner with them.
- ✚ Banners should be rolled up and stored with the cluster

Celebration of Mass

- ✚ Mass booklets will be distributed on your arrival at the stadium.
- ✚ During the distribution of Holy Communion we would ask you to follow the instructions of your designated volunteer. As we are in a stadium we have coordinated (as far as possible) the distribution to ensure that the stairs and passageways do not get congested. This may mean a short wait before you are invited forward.
- ✚ We would ask that ALL of the congregation leave their seats and join the Holy Communion line, even if they are not receiving the Eucharist – this will allow ease of excess and re-entry to the rows.
- ✚ When coming forward for Holy Communion, please direct pupils to use all of the priests or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who are available.

Action Required

- ✚ **In order to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion, and make this point as reverential and streamlined as possible, we will require the assistance of Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Could we please ask that each cluster nominates 2 commissioned Extra ordinary ministers to assist with the distribution of Communion. They should report to Jo Hughes on arrival to receive instructions.**

- ✚ At the end of Mass, stewards will indicate when each section of the stadium should leave. We would ask your assistance in following their requests to ensure a safe and speedy departure for all.

