

Since then Catholic schools have flourished amazingly. Since then Catholic schools have demonstrated time and again that they are much valued and very popular centres of educational excellence, with many pupils achieving academic and personal success. For that reason, we have adopted as a slogan for the 2018 Centenary the strapline *Catholic schools – good for Scotland*, which chimes well with the theme of this Catholic Education Week *Serving the Common Good*.

The development in the Catholic Church of an explicit body of Catholic social teaching has enriched the vision of Catholic education, emphasizing the Church's mission to transform society through love, service and justice. *Service of the common good* is intrinsic to Catholic education and, along with liturgy, prayer and learning, is one of the defining marks of the Catholic school as an educational community of faith.

During this historic year, I invite you to mark this Centenary, participate in the local and national events and celebrate one hundred years of successful partnership between the Church and the public authorities. I encourage you to give thanks for Catholic Education and to pray for its ongoing success. I ask you to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service and all that it does on behalf of our Church, our young people and our families to promote the positive contribution of Catholic schools in Scotland. I encourage you all to speak out positively on behalf Catholic Education, sharing the good news that Catholic schools are good for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ *Philip Tartaglia,*

Archbishop of Glasgow  
President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland

St Margaret's- Roybridge, St Joseph's- Spean Bridge,  
St Finnans- Invergarry, Cille Choirill-Roybridge

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Parish Administrator : Fr. Danny Convery - Tel: 01397 712 238

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

21<sup>st</sup> January 2018

<u>Masses</u>		“Half an hour’s meditation a day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed”
Wed, Fri – St Margarets	10am	
Thu - St Josephs	10am	
Sat Vigil : - St Josephs	6.30pm	
Sunday: St Finnans:	9.15 am	
St Margarets:	11.30am	
Confessions: before Vigil Mass, Sunday 11.30 Mass, also on request.		
		St Francis de Sales, Feast Day Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan

*Welcome!*

*To all who are visiting our parish – a warm welcome!*

*Please sign our visitors' book.*

**Next Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> January Fourth Sunday of the Year B**

**Roybridge**

Readers: Children

Prayers: Children

Ex Mins: Margaret Watt, Catrina MacDonald, Margaret Sargent

**Spean Bridge:**

Reader: Lindsay

Prayers: Faith

Ex Mins: Liz, Moira

Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC002876

**Anniversaries:** we remember all our loved ones. We pray for those recently dead and in particular for Donald MacFarlane, Coire Glas. Donald's requiem mass and service were held before Christmas in Loughbrough and this coming Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January there will be a memorial mass in St Margaret's at 11am followed by internment of his ashes at Cille Choirill.

The planned burial of Ewen MacDonald, formerly of Inverlochy, last week did not take place in Cille Choirill due to the difficulties of access with snow. This will now hopefully be completed this coming Thursday afternoon.

**We pray for the sick:** for those at home, in hospital, those who have asked for our prayers, we pray especially for Joey Cooper who is ill. We pray that all our sick will be comforted and strengthened.

**Tuesday: No mass**

**Special Collection:** apologies, a correction from last week's newsletter Crib donations for Holy Childhood raised £110.40 (and not £10.40) With thanks for your generosity.

**Children's Mass:** our children will lead in our ministries of reader and offertory next week. Tea and coffee and other nice things will follow mass in the village hall, all welcome.

**Conversion of St Paul:** we celebrate this feast on Thursday of this week. St Paul, one time persecutor of the Church, seemed the most unlikely person to be the 'apostle of the nations'. God can do anything! St Paul never ceased to express thanks and wonder for this grace; but he still prayed for perseverance.

**100 Club:** for January goes to Lindsay Simpson whose number 38 was drawn, congratulations Lindsay.

**Snow and Ice:** Please take extra care entering and leaving our Churches over this cold period. Parishioners are welcome to use the chapel house car park and to access the church by a more level path when the weather is so challenging.

**Education Sunday**

Next Sunday is Education Sunday, marking the start of a week when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith.

**Education Sunday – theme for 2018**

During this Catholic Education Week we are asked to reflect on how we are "Serving the Common Good" in our homes, schools and parishes.

**Education Sunday – appeal for teachers**

If you would like further information on becoming a teacher in our Catholic schools, please contact the Scottish Catholic Education Service : [mail@sces.uk.com](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year around this time, we celebrate Catholic Education Week. During this week we:

- celebrate the God-given talents and achievements of our young people;
- acknowledge the hard work and faith witness of the staff in our schools;
- mark the unique contribution that Catholic Education makes to our families, our parishes and to wider Scottish society; and

reflect on the mission of the Catholic school for the future. This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week is *Serving the Common Good*. This theme reflects the vision and aim of Catholic education that Catholic schools, centred on the person of Jesus Christ, form young people to discover and follow the Christian vocation to live responsibly with and for others in accordance with the message of Christ and so to build up and transform society for the better. This is a message to which our young people readily respond, as can be seen by the high levels of participation in the Pope Francis Faith award and the Caritas programme.

This year – 2018 – we have even greater reason to celebrate Catholic education. This is the Centenary Year of the Education (Scotland) Act of 1918 which brought pre-existing and future Catholic schools into the public provision of education. This historic legislation qualified Catholic schools for public funding and opened the door to much more extensive access to Catholic education.