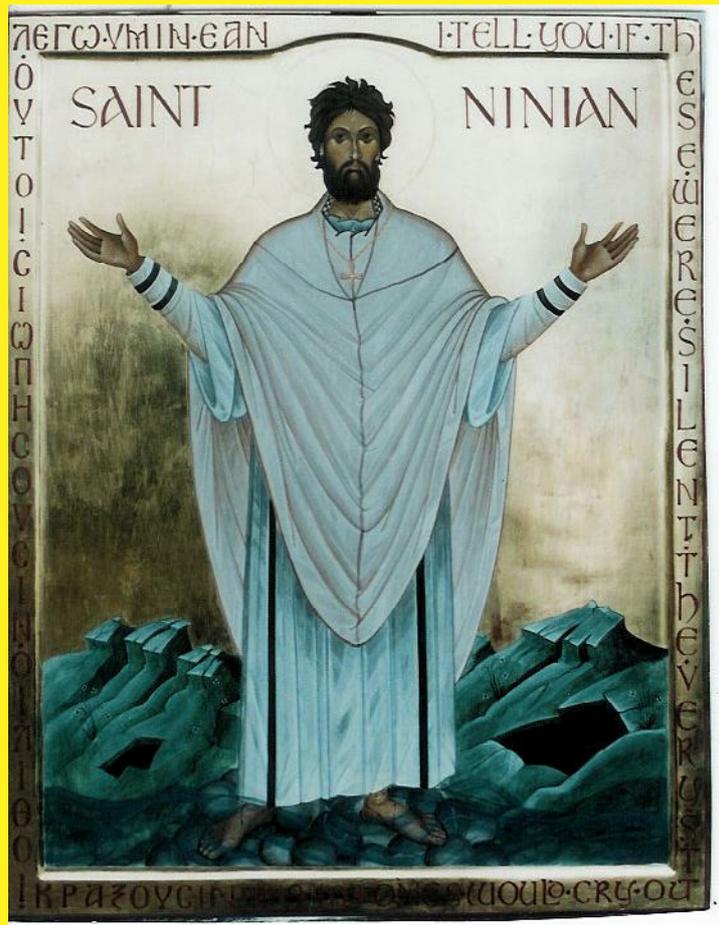


# Catholic Light



## Catholic Education

St Ninian's High School

The Charter for Catholic schools in Scotland states, “the mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education and offering formation through the promotion of gospel values, through celebration and worship and through service to the common good”.

As teachers and pupils in a Catholic school we are encouraged to live out the Gospel values on a daily basis. We are each called to focus on the academic studies that help us develop and guide us in our steps through life. Together with our studies we are called to focus on our spiritual growth in order to draw closer to God. Through spiritual growth we can make the right decisions as young people and for the rest of our lives. Having a Catholic education remains with us forever.

In St Ninian’s each day is started by thanking God for the gifts and blessings we have received. We also pray for peace and for those less fortunate than ourselves. Mass is offered several times per week in our Oratory and provides the opportunity to join together as a community to celebrate the Eucharist. The Oratory is a peaceful space within the school - giving us the chance to spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. In particular, we have the chance to pray in the oratory during the exposition to the Blessed Sacrament each Friday lunchtime.

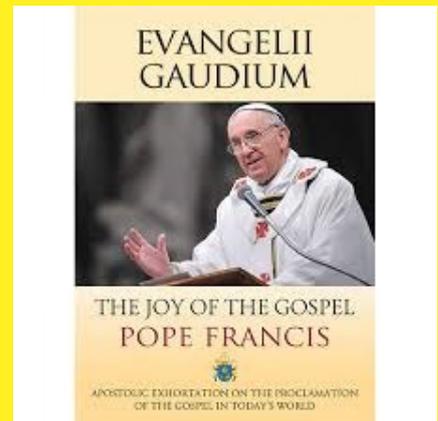
As a Catholic school, we follow the Liturgical calendar and join together to celebrate as a community of faith. Throughout school year pupils and teachers are active in charitable work raising funds for many important groups. As a Catholic it is important to offer help to those in need.



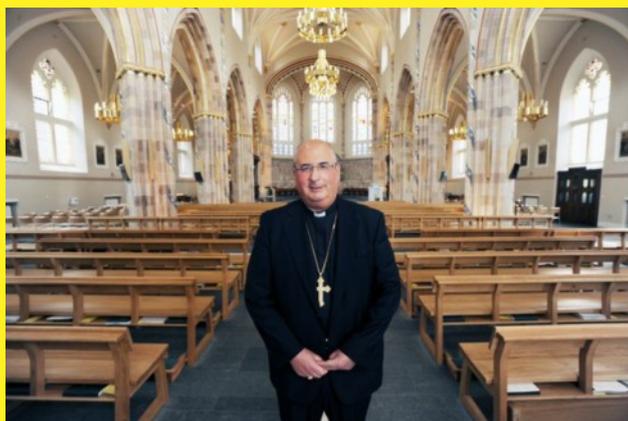
In the gospel we are reminded by Christ to treat every person as an equal, regardless of their position within society. An important message that we all learn from our Catholic education, is that no matter how well off we are, there are always people in need of our help.

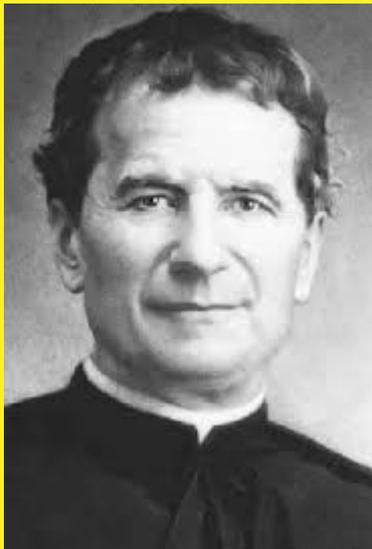
In “*Evangelii Gaudium*” (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis wrote “***the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation.***”

Pope Francis is aware of the temptations that face each of us on our journey through life. However, he reminds us that if we let the love of Christ into our hearts and follow him through our journey then it is possible to break down the barriers and temptations that may be in our way.



Archbishop Tartaglia wrote a letter for the Mass of 8 February 2015. in which he echoed the words of Pope Francis about discussing the joy of the gospel. Archbishop Tartaglia recognised that each one us is challenged to respond to the gospel and to seek God in all people that we encounter in our daily lives. He paid a special tribute to the role of teachers and highlighted the need for more committed Catholic teachers. As well as guiding young people through their academic studies, the role of a Catholic teacher is unique as it also focuses on the development of pupils in their journey of faith. A journey which will inspire them, develop their many talents and ultimately bring them closer to God.





Throughout the history of the Catholic Church there have been many great and inspirational teachers. Saint John Bosco (1815-1888) was particularly inspirational as he took it upon himself to educate many of the underprivileged street children of Turin in Italy. Much of Northern Italy was rapidly becoming industrialised and as a result it left behind many poor families and in particular young people.

On being ordained in 1841, John Bosco immediately set about his mission of helping these poor young people. His vision was to educate them and give them skills that would guide them and improve their lives. John Bosco's method of educating the young people was built around trust, openness and participation in the holy sacraments. John Bosco took the values of the gospel and changed the lives of many young people by seeing their potential and by seeing Christ in them. In the late 1850s, John Bosco formed the congregation of Salesians and very soon his methods of education were taken to all parts of the World. Today, the Salesians are still active and have many thousands of priests and sisters who carry out the same important work that John Bosco started over 150 years ago.

### **Prayer to John Bosco**

***St. John Bosco***

***Friend of the young.***

***Teacher in the ways of God.***

***Your dedication to empowering the needy inspires us still.***

***Help me to work for a better world,***

***where the young are given the chance to flourish,***

***where the poor's dream for justice can come true,***

***and where God's compassion is shown to be real.***

***Intercede for me as I bring my needs to you and to***

***Our heavenly Mother.***

***Amen***