

PARISH OF POBAL

Second Sunday of Christmas;

3rd January 2021.

Website: pobalparish.com and Webcam - www.churchservices.tv/Tempo.

Priest: Fr. John Halton, Parochial House, Tempo. Tel. 895 41344.

Sunday Masses: **Tempo:** 11.00am, **Cradien:** 9.30am.

Masses next week: **Tempo:** Tuesday 10.00am, Wednesday & Friday 7.00pm.

Eucharistic Ministers: **Tempo: Sunday 10th Jan** – Siobhan McManus & Maire McKeagney

Cradien: Sunday 10th Jan – Enda Coyle.

Anniversaries: **Tempo: Friday 8th Jan (7.00pm)** Pat & Maureen Murphy, Creagh and deceased members of Murphy & Carey families.

Brigid & Frank McDonald, Ballyreagh.

The Epiphany of the Lord: Wednesday 6th January 2021. Holiday of Obligation – Mass in Tempo at 7.00pm on Wednesday evening.

Let us Dream- The Path to a Better Future: By Pope Francis.

This is the name of a new book written by Pope Francis and just published. In this book the Pope talks about the crisis of the Corona Virus, and the many crisis or viruses we suffer during our lifetime. During any crisis or (virus) in our lives he says: we are sifted; our way of life gets shaken up; and our way of living gets challenged. We can never come out of a crisis the same person as we went into it. If we get through it; we come out of it either a better person or a worse person but never the same person. The question for us, he says: is How are going to come out of this crisis? A crisis is a time of trial. The scriptures talk of passing through fire to describe such trials like the kiln testing the potter's handiwork. The fact is that all of us are tested in life. This is the way we grow. In these trials we reveal our own heart. We reveal how solid it is, how merciful it is, how big or small it is. During normal times we don't have to reveal ourselves. We smile; we say the right things and we come through unscathed, without having to show who we really are. But when we are in a crisis it is the opposite. In a crisis we are forced to choose and to reveal ourselves as we are.

During this pandemic our hearts were touched by the numbers of people who were available who made themselves available to help those in need. The old culture of individualism collapsed, as many found new ways of being helpful to one another. We have seen men and women who laid down their lives in the service of those most in need. We think of health workers, doctors, nurses, and carers, and other caregivers as well as chaplains, and all who chose to accompany others in their pain. Taking the necessary precautions, they sought to offer others support and consolation. We have seen others also who helped others who live alone with groceries, necessities, and with their time to make a phone call with an uplifting bit of news, or to enquire how they were coping. They were witnesses to closeness and tenderness. They have lit up a path for all of us to follow. Through them, God calls on all of us to follow their example and to make the future a new future, where all can see that we belong to God, and to one another. We are loved by God, and his love for us must flow out into our love for each other. They followed the example of the Good Samaritan, who stopped what he was doing; who pulled up; and acted, in entering the world of the wounded man. He threw himself into the situation, into the others suffering, and so he created a new future. This new future will be built on love, service of one another, and caring for one another. The old way of living was built on individualism, and self caring rather than sharing, service, and love for one another. In this way we will have allowed this virus to sift us, to shake us up, and to challenge our way of living. This new future was not only welcomed, but applauded by all those who stood at their doors and windows clapping and dancing their admiration, not just locally, but all over the world.

Readers: Tempo: Bernie McDermott.

Cradien: 3rd – Thomas Cox, 10th – Tony Cox, 17th – Marie Perrett, 24th – Helen Cleary, 31st – James Naan.

Death: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of John McCaughey, Coolcran, whose Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday 2nd January 2021. May God console all who mourn his loss.

Mass on Sundays: *Advance notice of your intention to attend Sunday Mass must be given to the designated person to book your place.* The Number to book your place in Tempo Church is **07501 084259 (Tues and Thurs 2-5pm)** or **(07718 821060) (Fri 7-9pm)**. The number to book your place in Cradien is **07866174766 (Thurs & Fri 2-5pm)**.

The wearing of masks is mandatory in churches in NI.