

Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**OUR NEW PARISH PRIEST:** Today we give a “Cread Mile Failte” to our new Parish Priest— Monsignor Peter O’ Reilly --to Pobal Parish. We wish him every grace and happiness with us. We wish him health, joy, and peace, as he leads us on our way in the company of God into an unknown future. Our future is never clear, but when we walk and work with God the Holy Spirit will enlighten our path. We know that Monsignor Peter is a man of vision, sensitivity, and foresight, so we thank God for sending him to us. We also pray for him as his work load becomes greater. We ask God to pour his Holy Spirit anew into our lives so that we become a Community with Christ at its centre. We simply say: “Welcome Monsignor Peter”!

**Baptisms:** We welcome into the Community of the Faith: -- Isia-Mae Gilfedder—Blackhill, Tempo, who was baptised in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020. Also --Roise Susanna McConnell---Lissan Drive, Omagh, who was baptised in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday 29 August 2020. May their homes be filled with love, joy, prayer, and happiness!

**Keys of Parish Property:** In our diocese it is customary for all organisations in the parish to hand back to the person in charge of the parish all keys of parish property. The one in charge then hands them to the new Parish Priest. Keys are always a symbol of office. I ask all who have keys, old, or new, to hand them into the Priests House. This insures that the new parish Priest as trustee of all Parish property knows where he stands. Therefore I ask all to comply with this regulation in the next week. This is an important regulation, which avoids confusion.

**Silence:** A man and his family were in a motel room. He was to give a speech at a convention. The program was extremely precise. He had only a certain number of minutes to give that speech, and therefore it was important for him to have the correct time. He was going out of his mind because he had misplaced his watch. Well, his wife and his kids were running all over the room looking for it. He was in a panic because time was growing short, and suddenly he shouted at the top of his voice, “Everybody freeze!” And everybody just stopped where they were- Total silence- till they heard the ticking. And in the silence they found the watch---“Be still and know that I am God”!

## PARISH OF POBAL

Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time:

5<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Website: pobalparish.com and Webcam - [www.churchservices.tv/Tempo](http://www.churchservices.tv/Tempo).

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

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

**Weekday Masses:** Tempo: Tuesday 10.00am, Friday 7.00pm. Cradien: Thursday 9.30am

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Tempo: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sep – Siobhan McManus & Maire McKeagney.

Cradien: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sep – Enda Coyle.

**Anniversaries:** Tempo: Friday 10/09 (7.00pm) Sharon Campbell, Edenmore Heights.

Tom Bogue, Main Street

Josephine Durnion, Glenview Park.

Cradien: St Josephs 5/9/2021 -Eamon and Teresa Bogue- Lessen

**Deacons in the Catholic Church:** On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Feast of St Laurence who was a Deacon and a Martyr. On that day I felt I should write a short article on Deacons in the Church, We will hear more about them in the future. Some may think that the order of Deacon in the church is very new but this Feast of St Lawrence reminds us that Deacons go back to the very early days of the church,. The stories of Stephen and Philip (chapter 6 and 7 of the acts of the apostles) bear witness to this. Here we are told that the number of the disciples were increasing, and the Hellenists or those who spoke Greek made a complaint against the Hebrews or those who spoke Aramaic. The apostles have displaced the Sanhedrin as rightful leaders of Gods people, but they soon have to expand the leadership. Because of the rapid growth in the community the apostles had to appoint more leaders to lead them as Moses had already done in the desert. Exodus 18:17- 23. Like Jesus the leaders had all been from Galilee, and spoke Hebrew- closely related to Aramaic. But new Christian Jews from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem and these new Christian Jews were more comfortable with speaking Greek, the international language of that time. The term “Hellenistic“describes people who had Greek language and culture while the people from Galilee spoke Hebrew and Aramaic. As often happens the apostles had the control of the Community’s purse, and some felt that the poor from the Greek group were not treated as well as the poor from the Aramaic speaking group. So the twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them as follows:

“It would not be right for us to neglect the Word of God so as to give out food. “You brothers therefore must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the spirit and with wisdom. We will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to Prayer and to the service of the Word”. The whole Assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith, and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Alexandria – a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles who prayed over them, and laid their hands on them. In this way they were ordained as Deacons. As we can see the handling of the community’s goods symbolises authority over the community, and so we soon find that these three deacons are given the same gifts of the Holy Spirit and worked similar “signs and wonders” and debated, and preached as much as the twelve (Acts 6:8—1, and Acts: 7: 1-53.)The Twelve apostles represented and rooted the Church in Jerusalem while the seven deacons (seven was regarded as the perfect number) symbolised the universality of the church. They had received their authority from the original apostles as they were ordained by them. Shortly, Stephen came into conflict with some of the Greek speaking Jews who didn’t believe in Christ, but they were no match for Stephen’s wisdom, or for the spirit who lived in him. They falsely accused him of attacking the sacred Jewish institutions of the temple and the law. They stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes against him as the chief priests, scribes and elders had previously done to Jesus. So Stephen was hauled before the Sanhedrin as Jesus had been in his passion. Stephen Speech is a MUST to be read, as he gives an account of the working of God among his people until Jesus comes and dies on the Cross, only to be raised from the dead. (To be continued)

**Cavanacarragh Tractor Run on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021** in aid of Sands and Friends of the Cancer Centre. Leaving Cavanacarragh Hall at 3.00pm. Please come along and enjoy a good afternoon! More details later.

**Readers:** Any young readers who would like to read the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Mass, please contact Annette on 07718 821060 **Mass on Sundays:** Advance notice of your intention to attend Sunday Mass must be given to the designated person to book your place. To book your place in Tempo Church: Telephone 07501 084259 (Tues & Thurs 2-5pm) or 07718 821060 (Fri 7-9pm). The number to book your place in Cradien is 07866 174766 (Thurs & Fri 2-5pm). The wearing of masks is mandatory in Churches.