

PARISH OF POBAL

The Baptism of the Lord:

10th 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 (via Webcam only)

All weekday Masses are currently suspended until further notice.

Anniversaries: Today - Sunday 10th Jan (11.00am) Pat & Maureen Murphy, Creagh and deceased members of Murphy & Carey families.

Brigid & Frank McDonald, Ballyreagh.

Sunday 17th Jan (11.00am) Mary Ann & Elizabeth McCormick, Edenmore.

Francie Jackson, Edenmore Heights.

Peggy Noble, Tempo.

M.M.M. Luke Padian, Glengesh.

Tom, Bridget, Thomas Jnr, Noel & Geraldine McMulkin.

Anthony McMulkin, Largy

James McMulkin, Glenview & Brendan McCusker, Omagh.

Let us Dream-The Path to a Better Future: Pope Francis: No 2

We can never come out of a crisis the same person as we came into it. We are sifted; our ways of living get shaken up, and our lifestyles are challenged. We come out of a crisis better or worse but never the same. During this pandemic the media became the main windows on our world. They showed us people who were suffering more than us. The best reporters took us to the margins of the world and brought back stage. This is journalism at its most noble, helping us to overcome our myopia, and opened up space for discussion and debate. They opened up a world that we often prefer to forget. As we wore our masks to protect us from the Corona Virus they opened up a world of other viruses---the world of hunger, violence and climate change. The covet crisis may seem unique, because it affects most of the human kind. But it is only unique, because it brought the world to a standstill. There are other viruses that are just as dire, but are far enough away that we can act as if they don't exist. Think of the wars scattered across different parts of the world; of the production and trade in weapons; of the hundreds and thousands of refugees fleeing poverty, hunger; lack of opportunity; and climate change.

These viruses seem distant from us, for they are not part of our daily news. Therefore they fail to move us. But like the covet crisis they affect the whole of humanity. Let's think of the figures that nations spend on weapons, and then compare those statistics with UNICEPs statistics on how many children lack schooling, and go to bed hungry, and then realise who pays the price of arms spending. The poor do. In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger. And how many have died of war. It is a very serious virus, but we are not allowed to feel it. We have seen the slums and shanty towns in other countries. We have seen the holding centres, and refugee camps where people spend years crammed together, where they are denied the most elementary rights: to hygiene, to food, to a dignified life; where dreams are turned into torture chambers. Then there is the destruction to the natural world. We thought it didn't affect us because it happened elsewhere. But suddenly we are getting the message. We now realise that the distant floods and forest fires is part of the same crisis, and involves us all. We are all connected; and we are all united, and what happens in one part of the world affects people in another part of the world. It is the poor who are affected most. Light was shone also through the covet health measures that different countries adopted to protect people. It was a revelation to see people living in conditions, where there was no space to social distance, and where clean water is so scarce that they couldn't wash hands, or sanitize themselves. These are the scenes which must touch our hearts, and encourage us to change.

Mass on Sundays: *Sunday Masses will only be available online for the next 4 weeks. Anniversaries currently booked for Friday night will be included in the 11.00am Sunday Mass. Sunday Masses in Tempo will be streamed. Sunday Masses in Cradien and weekday Masses in both Churches will cease until further notice.*