

## PARISH OF POBAL

The Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ:

25<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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.

**A Happy Christmas:** The Covid Virus is still with us. However I do want to compliment all in the parish for showing discipline in keeping the regulations. It hasn't been an easy time for any of us. We thank God that few in the parish died during this epidemic. We thank God that we have the vaccine which creates a sense of hope in us all. We thank God too that the senior people's homes in our parish have done a Trojan job in caring for our senior citizens. We thank God also that our teachers have cared for our children in our schools with great love and devotion. We remember also the carers who visit our senior people in their own homes, and have brought joy to so many people. We also remember all who brought food parcels, or shopping to people who live on their own. We thank St Vincent de Paul Members who were always on call with a helping hand.

We compliment both organising teams in our churches who, insured that those who came to church were treated with warmth, care, and professionalism, so that our people felt safe during Mass. We were impressed also by our parishioners who showed such respect and gratitude to the people on the organising teams. We can easily forget the three ladies who take the bookings for Mass. I understand also that the children in our schools were prayerful, well behaved, and appreciative in taking part in their Christmas Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The teachers and Staff in the school were very impressed. Of course Gerry, our Sacristan in Tempo, and the group who act as sacristans in Cradien kept the churches in such condition that all felt safe and happy in church. We never forget Liam who sanitized us on our way into church with such care, that we knew that a virus would be afraid to come near any of us.

We remember also Clare with her helpers who Hoover the church in Cradien, and look after the altar cloths. What would we do without them? As we know Bishop Larry asked us to make the Crib central in our parish this year, and to improve it. And what happened. Ciaran, Sean & Co and Cormac landed the crib down to the church, and found a new placing for it, lest we sink on the lawn. The trees and lights were erected on the lawn, and lighted very beautifully by John and his good wife Bernie. Then Ronan, the electrician, and his father Paddy came to put in the foundational wiring and lighting, and to insure that it was all electrically safe. They were all under the leadership of Ciaran the Auction man and the Tractor Run man. Bishop Larry had asked also that the Church be decorated. So Hughie, got the Jesse tree with little notice, and again with little notice and Ursula volunteered to decorate it. No we haven't forgotten those who make the church become alive with the presence of God - those who organise Eucharistic devotion; those who proclaim the Word of God, the Eucharistic Ministers, the Collectors, the Choirs, the Mass Servers, and all who come to pray and celebrate Mass. Then there are "Two Teams" of four who count the money, and enter the envelopes each Monday Night. They alternate from month to month, and do their work quietly, efficiently, and carefully. And what about Hughie and Ciaran who look after the graves and the graveyard? And last but not least we remember Geraldine, without whose help we would be lost. A BIG THANK YOU! We thank those who pay their envelope each week, and we encourage those who have been careless to begin this new year. A Happy Christmas!

**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)**.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES AS per NI Government Covid Latest Regulations:**

From 26th December 2020, for a period of 6 weeks, new restrictions will be in place.

Masses - Public Masses may continue with a congregation present according to the available accommodation within the church, in line with the relevant guidance that is already in place, Churches continue to open for private prayer, with sanitising measures in place.

**Curfew** - It has been clarified that the 8.00pm 'curfew' that will operate during the first week of the lock down in the North, will also apply to Churches. This means that during this period Churches must be vacated by 8.00pm each evening and all activities ceased by this time. **This means Friday evening mass will change to 7.00pm**

**The wearing of masks is mandatory in churches in NI.**