

Dear Friends

This is our eighth update from the island – and those 8 weeks sometimes seem to have passed quickly, but then again, sometimes very slowly!

As I announced last week, the island will come out of its lockdown on Monday; and that means shops, offices and restaurants are permitted to open, with social distancing restrictions in place. It will be interesting to see how the ‘new normal’ starts to work in practice and how it will change our patterns of behaviour.

The island will then wait to see how it can re-start its role as a tourist destination and that is the next stage which the authorities have to grapple with ... using testing and other controls as a way of enabling entry on to St Barts, whilst ensuring that the island remains a ‘corona free’ zone.

On the island the amount of traffic has certainly increased, as has the number of roadside construction projects! Likewise, the beaches are noticeable busier as families seek to cool down to avoid the usual Summer temperature rise.

In other news, we were all concerned to hear that the son of our beloved gardener and tenor, Laurent Clequin, was injured in a surfing accident on the island last week. I am very pleased to report that following a 5-hour operation in Guadeloupe to repair a broken cervical vertebra, Paul Lancelot is now recuperating in France and has full use of all his limbs and is already walking.

We have had a tremendous response from all of you during his period – with your replies to this email and a large number of you watching our online Sunday services, as well as the Taizé services and joining our virtual Sunday coffee morning. Hence, although the church will re-open for private prayer during the week, we have decided for the time being to continue our Sunday service online so the maximum number of people will have access to it. Going forward I am looking to see how we can boost the internet speeds within the church, and to see what additional equipment we will need, to enable us to stream/record our ‘live’ Sunday services; which will enable us keep the ‘connection’ with all our parishioners – whether on-island or overseas.

We also want to say a BIG thank you to all who responded to last month’s request for help with our funding. We do realise that right now almost everyone is experiencing economic hardship as a result of the ongoing situation. Yet, as you can imagine, with the church closed for part of our High Season and the island receiving fewer tourists, our income this year will be lower than expected. If you are able, please consider making an offering – perhaps similar to that which you might have done if you were with us in church on Sunday. Your offering will help us to continue to make St Bartholomew’s Anglican Church a place of true spiritual sustenance, wherever you may be. There is an address below to send cheques or, if easier, a link so that you can securely donate online using your credit card.

This week’s service for the 5th Sunday of Easter has now been uploaded. Father Charlie celebrates our ‘virtual’ mass and we have a special guest preacher this

week. He is Father Jon Dephouse from St Thad's in Culver City, Los Angeles, who was part of our visiting clergy program here on the island in January. (FYI: Saint Thaddeus is another name for Saint Jude, one of Jesus' twelve apostles).

Father Jon would like us all to watch a recent video made for this challenging time called The Great Realisation – and subtitled Hindsight 2020! It's part poem, part reflection and part ray of hope; told as a children's bedtime story – and I have included it as part of our Sunday playlist (see below), as well as included the video link below.

Our Sunday playlist includes an opening hymn with the church singing Morning Has Broken showing some photographs of the Brook Lacour Garden. Also included is a post-sermon meditation of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah – it's a string trio version with all parts played by our talented musical director, Ombeline. Our closing hymn is a video of the song 'The Blessing' produced during the lockdown with different voices from over 65 UK churches – it's sends a strong, positive Eastertide resurrection message especially for these difficult times. We hope you will enjoy the whole Sunday production.

With the lockdown coming to end here and restaurants re-opening, I thought that it might be fun to share with each other what is our favourite dish at our favourite on-island restaurant during our virtual Zoom coffee hour at 10am on Sunday (details below). After our general chatter during the coffee morning, we have introduced smaller 'breakout' groups, whereby those online then have a chance to chat with just 2 or 3 other participants to get to know one another better – do think about joining us.

Also below are details of our Bestseller Book Group which will meet on Monday 18th May, as well as our virtual Taizé services/playlists plus our prayer list.

Those of us on-island do feel very blessed to come out of this lockdown, and we pray for all of you who are still in confinement and those who are or have been ill or have died; or otherwise have had their lives significantly affected. And we do realise that for everyone, it is not over yet; so let's continue to Stay Safe.

With blessings
Philip

PS And a Happy Mother's Day to all our American-based Mothers

1. Sunday Service

5th Sunday of Easter Playlist: https://bit.ly/StBAC_Easter5

Sunday Sermon: https://bit.ly/StBAC_SermonEaster5

The Great Realisation video: <https://youtu.be/Nw5KQMXDiM4>

2. Offering

If you would like to make an offering, please send cheques to:

Friends of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church

106 West River Road

Rumson

NJ 07760

Or use our Website link: <https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com/donations/>

3. Prayer List

Brook Lacour

Lucy Day

Nat Day

Valerie Trangmar

Rosemond Greaux

Paul-Lancelot Clequin

4. Zoom meeting: Sunday 10am (*I will go online 5 mins early to help any first-timers!*)

Via the internet: <https://zoom.us/j/9713397133>

Via the Zoom App: Meeting ID: 9713397133

Via your telephone +1 253 215 8782 (USA) then input the Meeting ID: 9713397133

Password, if needed: 97133

5. Next Bestseller Book Club – Monday, 18th May at 6pm

Saving Fish from Drowning by Amy Tan

6. Taizé services

These are posted on our YouTube Channel.

There are several virtual services uploaded, as well as playlists with our favourite Taizé chants.

Our Taizé Services: https://bit.ly/StBAC_VirtualTaize

Some of our Favourite Taizé Chants: https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize1

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Philip Trangmar

Parish Administrator

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