

Dear Friends

This is our sixteenth 2020 newsletter from the island, and things are beginning to settle down here; so much so that one could almost say “Virus ... what virus?”

However, we are still very aware of its severity in the rest of the world; but life here is certainly different in the ‘bubble’ of St Barts. Just walking or driving around, seeing most of the shops and restaurants open, it truly looks like ‘business as usual’. And save for the odd bottle of hand sanitizer at the entrances to stores or restaurants, there is not much else to show that the rest of the world is still having to maintain its vigilance to protect themselves and their communities. We pray for all those in our worldwide church community who are still having to maintain social distancing, wear masks and care for those in need.

However, despite the island opening its doors to the outside world, our visitors are not having an easy time getting here. St Martin is not allowing any flights from the US for another two weeks (at least!); so most of our American tourists are arriving via Puerto Rico. It is worth noting that the island reported yesterday that there have been no new positive tests of COVID-19, and that testing went from 60 people last week to 160 this week – hence it seems most of our visitors are being tested and are negative! We do have our own virus issues though, with a resurgence of Dengue Fever on the island ... so mosquito protection measures are necessary.

During this quiet season, the local government is taking the opportunity to carry out major roadworks, both in St Jean and Lorient; so there are long traffic queues, and a lot of island traffic has been re-routed via Grand Fond and Saline ... so it’s not quite as quiet here as it has been previously!

Our service this week is a Eucharistic Service celebrated by Father Charlie (accompanied by a bit of island wind!), and our sermon is preached by the Revd Tom Synan, from Holy Trinity Church, Amherst, MA; who is often with us in January or February. His sermon this week is very much about making ourselves available to God; and so it is fitting that our opening hymn is one of our favourites sung in the church: “*Here I am Lord*”. And then at the end of the service, I have included a new song, but with the same theme: “*I hear You call ... I am available*”.

The opening video includes some photographs of the island under the dust storm, which hit us two weeks ago ... I am happy to say that the clear blue skies, like those in the final photos, have returned! Our post sermon mediation video this week has the wonderful music of Ennio Morricone from the movie *The Mission*; and I have included some of my own photographs of the Iguazu waterfalls on the Brazil/Argentina border, where parts of film were shot.

At 10am on Sunday we will hold our usual Zoom Coffee Morning (details below) and Father Tom hopes to check in early, before he has to join his own church members online. The subject for our discussion (inspired by that video) is favourite places visited in Central/South America (or perhaps where you would like to visit post lockdown!). Please note that Zoom are changing their systems so that

all meetings will require passcodes to access them. **Our passcode is 97133.**

Also listed below is how to make an offering to the Church, as well as information about our next Bestseller Book Group (the next meeting is on Monday, July 13th); and there are also details about our virtual Taizé services, plus a link to previous updates, and our prayer list.

As the world is still coping with this virus, we continue to pray for all those who have been affected. We also pray for the recognition of the change needed for equality in our societies. And let's continue to wash our hands and wear our masks where appropriate – Stay Safe!

With blessings
Philip

PS Hoping all those of you in Canada and America had/are having a very happy and safe Independence Day (albeit it's rather strange for a Brit to mention these occasions!).

PPS The butterfly at the end of the Mission video was real and not digitally added!

PPPS We are continually updating our mailing list, so if you have missed any of our previous emails, there is a link below! Likewise, let me know if you wish to unsubscribe or know anyone who might like to be added.

1. Sunday Service

Sunday Playlist: https://bit.ly/StBAC_Sunday5July

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 this Website link: [https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com](https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com/donations/)

[/donations/](https://www.stbartholomewsanglicanchurch.com/donations/)

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3. Prayer List

Brook Lacour

Gaby Charneau

Rosemond Greaux

Paul-Lancelot Clequin

The family of Lucy Day

The family of Marius Stakelborough

The family of Valerie Trangmar

4. Coffee Morning Zoom meeting: Sunday 10am – **passcode 97133**

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

5. Bestseller Book Club – an informal discussion group, which meets every three/four weeks. Please note the change of date: **Monday 13th July** – *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes: a saga set in the Appalachians during the Post-Depression era. Please let me know by email if you would like to join us.

6. Past Corona Updates

You can visit our website if you wish to read any of our previous updates:
https://bit.ly/StBAC_CoronaUpdates

7. Taizé services

These are also posted on our YouTube Channel.

There are several virtual services uploaded (including the most recent one from last Tuesday), as well as composite playlists with some of our favourite Taizé chants.

All our Taizé Services: https://bit.ly/StBAC_VirtualTaize

Favourite Taizé Chants: https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize1

More favourite Taizé Chants: https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize2

And more favourite Taizé Chants: https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize3

Even more favourite Taizé Chants: https://bit.ly/StBAC_FavouriteTaize4

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