

Dear Friends

This is our third island update during the Corona Virus isolation. And as the days pass by in the quietness and solitude, it gets harder to remember which day of the week we are on! I find trying to create a workday structure helps, as does making sure there is a difference between my weekdays and the weekend. It will be particularly important next week as we approach Easter – and more about that later.

Up to yesterday, there have been just 6 cases on the island, of which three have recovered and the more recent three from last week are thankfully not gravely ill nor hospitalised, but confined to home.

While our surroundings are quiet, we are able to enjoy the wonderful views of nature from our homes – and my opinion has always been that there are no bad views on St Barts! The quietness and self-isolation allows us to appreciate the natural, green part of the island and our gardens – rather than focussing, as we usually do, on the yellow and blue of our beaches and ocean.

The supermarkets remain open and nothing seems to be in short supply (well no more than usual – the lettuces were looking a bit old and tired this week!). And I am still able to buy bread and croissants etc. – albeit only making the trip once a week; freezing the items as soon as I get home. The supermarket queue – staying 2 metres apart – lasted about 25 minutes (a little longer than last week) ... but that just heightened the anticipation. And once inside seeing the abundance of food (way beyond my expectations) it felt like being a child again when entering a toy shop!

The island is also joining in with the applause at 8pm each Thursday evening to show our support to all those incredible healthcare workers who are giving so much to the World – in the hillsides of Saline the applause was joined by the sound of conch shells being blown ... only in the Caribbean!

We are continuing to upload videos on YouTube for our virtual Sunday and Taizé services, and also the meditation group.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday when we traditionally gather around the Anchor to bless the palms and process into the church singing ‘Hosanna’. We will not be together in person this year, but together in spirit; and we have uploaded the service so you can continue to feel part of our special church community. Apologies for the background noise at the start – municipal travaux is still going on! Rest assured the sound does improve by the time we reach Father Charlie’s sermon!

As before the link below is to a ‘Virtual Playlist’ for the whole Palm Sunday Service – which includes separate videos of the service and several musical interludes; and you can follow along using the pdf link to our Sunday Service Booklet.

I will be online on Sunday at 10am for a virtual Zoom coffee morning fellowship if you wish to join us. The link (listed below) is the same as last week – our meeting number is 9713397133.

For the upcoming Holy Week I have included at the bottom of this email some suggestions to keep you ‘spiritually anchored’ during the week (and beyond). In

particular each day next week we will be uploading to our YouTube Channel a video of Father Charlie reflecting on the story of Holy Week (link below). Then on Good Friday we will have a recording of our usual service – An Hour in front of the Cross, followed by a virtual walking of the Way of the Cross.

I spoke with Bishop Errol Brooks this week, and he sends his thoughts and prayers to all of our congregation. I will include his special Easter message next week.

I also wanted to thank all those people who replied last week – it is good to have that contact. (Please note that I have decided to delay changing over our email delivery system to MailChimp until after Easter).

We send our prayers to all of you, and in particular to all those whose lives are being so dramatically affected at this time. Please continue to do your utmost to stay safe.

Warmest regards
Philip

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**1. YouTube Channel: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, St Barts
Palm Sunday Playlist:** https://bit.ly/StBAC_PalmSunday

2. Service Booklet pdf: <https://bit.ly/StBACservicebook>

3. Zoom meeting: Sunday 10am (I will come online 15 mins early to help any first-timers!)

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

Via the Zoom App: Meeting ID: 97133 97133

Via your telephone +1 253 215 8782 (USA) then input the Meeting ID: 97133 97133

Virtual Spiritual Aid – to keep you anchored

1. Father Charlie Vere Nicol – Holy Week reflections

Each day next week Father Charlie will read from the the New Testamer and reflect on the message. The videos will be uploaded to our YouTube Channel from Monday.

https://bit.ly/StBAC_YouTubeChannel

2. Dean Kate Moorehead – daily refection/prayer

Dean Kate is the dean of Jacksonville Cathedral and she has been a frequent visitor to St Barts in July as part our Visiting Clergy program. She has a daily prayer video of 3–4 minutes which is an uplifting start t each day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZAn3hFWbAI>

3. Richard Rohr – daily/weekly refection

The well know author and Jesuit priest can send emails to your inbox either daily or weekly via his Centre for Action and Contemplation.

<https://cac.org/sign-up/>

4. Our Weekly Meditation Group – led by Diana Bourel

This group meets each Thursday and you can now join online via its YouTube Channel.

https://bit.ly/StB_MeditationGroup

5. A Lectio Divina workshop – led by Marta Hobbs

Marta is one of our frequent visitors /‘parishioners’ from Florida and has recorded a series of *Lectio Divina* meditations focused on Scripture.

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1553038>

6. Recommended Reading by Father Steve Huber– as part of his Lenten list

(but just as useful during the confinement)

Falling Upward

Between the Dark and the Daylight

An Altar in the World

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

The Bible Challenge (daily reading)

Richard Rohr

Joan Chittister

Barbara Brown Taylor

Marcus Borg

Marek Zabriskie