

Dear Friends

May I first take this opportunity to wish everybody a **very Happy Easter** for tomorrow. It will be a very different Easter than usual for all of us, whether you are here on St Barts or at home, but we hope that the some of the joy which is usually found in our church and on our island at this time of year will make it into your lives.

We are now in our fourth week of lockdown and I think everyone here is trying to establish a routine. I see familiar faces passing by, at similar times of the day. Our strict social-distancing/self-isolation rules remain in place, even though I am pleased to report that we have had no new cases reported in the past two weeks – which keeps our number at 6 with 4 recovered and none who required to be hospitalised (which was probably helped by the fact that all six cases are under the age of 65!). Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whole world who are suffering so much, and our prayers are particularly for the health care workers in the front line. The applause on the island to acknowledge our thanks to these remarkable people (plus conch blowing, bongo drum playing and pot bashing) now takes place daily at 8pm!

At this point in time (and we might, at best, be only half way through this confinement), I am sure like me you are finding the lack of social contact difficult ... but this is when people may start to push the boundaries a little ... “Hey, what difference will it make if I meet up with a couple of friends at their house” or “I need to visit my parents/children ... they’re missing me.” But we all need to keep going and **stay strong and safe**. Because if we continue to act responsibly, we will help shorten the time that we have to spend like this – especially as it seems that we are contagious before we have any symptoms (or even if we never show any!). Plus don’t short change on your hand washing... do it often, and it’s still for 20 seconds (which is longer than you might think!).

The beauty of the island remains steadfast and nature seems to be doing its own thing right now ... notable on the island last week was a visit of **humpback whales** to Toiny. And the birds are still singing / crowing. In fact they seem to be singing louder than ever ... or is just less traffic and building site noise ;-) !

For those who have been on the island at Eastertime, you might recall **our wonderful Easter Service** – with La Chorale singing and the garden party afterwards – plus also the locals camping on all the beaches (obviously, the Collectivité have stressed this year that camping is forbidden, as still is swimming!).

What we can offer you is our virtual **Easter Sunday Service**, and we hope that you will feel that you are right in the Church with us ... you will even be able to sing along to ‘**Thank You Lord**’ at the end! While we won’t be able to offer you any champagne after the service this year, we will have a Virtual Coffee Morning / Fellowship on Zoom at 10am Sunday – with perhaps a special guest appearance! Details of the Sunday Service (**which will be available from 8am tomorrow**) and Zoom meeting are below.

We know that right now almost everyone is experiencing economic hardship as a result of the current situation. Yet, as you can imagine, with the church closed for part of our High Season, our income will also 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 continue to make St Bartholomew’s a **place of spiritual nourishment**, wherever you may be. There is an address below to send cheques and a link to our online-giving webpage.

We thank you for your support and we send our prayers to you and your communities.

With blessings  
Philip

**1. YouTube Channel: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, St Barts**  
**Easter Sunday Playlist:** [https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_Easter](https://bit.ly/StBAC_Easter)

**2. Zoom meeting:** Sunday 10am (*I will go online 15 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

### **3. Offering**

**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/donations/>

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