

Dear Friends

This is the fifth isolation update from the island, and I am pleased to report that we have had no new cases of coronavirus this week. This leaves us with just 6 reported cases, and we were informed that this week all workers at Marche-U had tested negative (following one positive test 2 weeks previously). We do feel blessed, as we see the number of cases being reported across the globe and we pray that countries will soon reach the top of their curve.

There have been a couple of changes to the isolation regulations this week. The first was a bonus ... we are now allowed to go to the beaches and swim. The second not so good ... heavy construction machinery is allowed to work/make noise, albeit only during the mornings!

The ritual of exercising seems to have taken hold here just like in other places, with numbers increasing by at least 3-fold since the beginning – it's now getting quite crowded out there on the popular routes e.g. around Saline and St Jean. After a wet January, which kept the island green, we had the usual dry February and March. But this past week, the gardens and cisterns have appreciated a few April showers. The French Government announced the current lockdown will continue to 11 May, but I know that the Collectivité is in talks with the 'Prefecture' in Guadeloupe to see if that can be lifted here, perhaps in some small ways, given our good fortune with lack of new cases and if we are able to carry out some community testing. What this space ...

I'm sure like me you have all been moved by the pictures of healthcare workers being applauded across the world. There were also the wonderful images projected onto the Christ the Redeemer statute in Rio de Janeiro; particularly meaningful to me, as my wife Rachel and I visited there some months ago (albeit in the clouds and rain!). You may have also seen (and cried a tear) during the past week with Andrea Bocelli singing in the empty Milan Cathedral.

I used both of these as my musical inspiration in this week's playlist for the service on 'Low Sunday' (the name given to the Sunday after Easter); including Ave Maria sung by our very own 'master-tenor' – Laurent Clequin ... available now using the link below. The videos also include a reading from a member of our congregation (technical lighting issues aside!) and of course, a sermon from Father Charlie Vere Nicol. On future Sundays we will also have homilies from some of our Visiting Clergy to maintain our connection with them during this time.

I must say that the success our YouTube videos has taken me a bit by surprise. We have had over 3,500 separate clicks on our videos, and Father Charlie's sermons have well over 100 views each. I will post a new Taizé video this Tuesday too.

Last Sunday, during our 10am Zoom virtual coffee morning, I said we would have a surprise guest ... in fact we had two! Father Charlie joined us, along with 20 or so other congregation members, as did Sarah Eastman, wife of the much-missed Bishop Ted. This week I am hoping Father Steve Huber will wake up early in California to come online!

We have received a wonderful Easter message from our Bishop, but it was too late to include in last week's update. You can read it via the link below.

We continue to pray for all our many friends, both near and far, to be protected – Stay Safe and Stay at Home as much as you can!

With blessings  
Philip

PS If anyone would like to record a reading for a future Sunday, drop me a line.

PPS 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.

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

**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/>

### **4. Bishop Errol Brooks Easter Message**

[https://bit.ly/StBAC\\_EasterMessage2020](https://bit.ly/StBAC_EasterMessage2020)

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