

Dear Friends

This is the ninth update from the island – and for those of us on-island, we know that we are among the most fortunate, as this week we were able to come out of confinement – with a significant reduction in the restrictions on our daily lives.

Shops, offices and restaurants were allowed to be open from Monday, albeit with a minor false-start as it turned out the legislation had not been properly authorised from France to Guadeloupe then to St Barts – so restaurants were made to close, only to then re-open on Wednesday ... all part of island life!

Most shops and offices are requiring us to wear masks, and social distancing limits numbers inside; so there are queues, particularly at busy places like banks, CCPF and Alma. We do have unrestricted time outside now, and it is nice not to have to fill out and carry a piece of paper each time we wish to leave the house!

The island is still waiting to see the timing on admitting tourists; and we shall have to see what the new procedures will involve to ensure that the island can remain corona free.

Also significant is the increase in road traffic – it seems to be more than ever, but this is probably due to us all being used to the previous weeks' dramatic decrease ... you will even notice it in our Church service videos!

The Church has opened its doors for private prayer for the first time in over 8 weeks. There are still restrictions on gatherings of over 10 people, so we intend to keep our Sunday services online for the time being. This week's Sunday's service is now uploaded with the link listed below, and Father Charlie Vere Nicol is preaching.

We have had some wonderful sunsets on the island recently, so I have shared some of my favourites photographs (taken by others) set to Laurent Clequin singing 'Panis Angelicus' for our post-sermon meditation. Then to finish, we have La Chorale, led by Charles Darden on piano, singing 'You Raise Me Up'; which sounds to me like it's been around for years, but was actually only written in 2002 and not a chart success until 2005!

We will hold our usual virtual Zoom coffee hour at 10am on Sunday (details below). Some of our chats have been lasting over an hour, but you can drop in for a few minutes too – do think about joining us.

Also below are details of our Bestseller Book Group (which has postponed its next meeting until on Monday 25th May), as well as our virtual Taizé services/playlists, a link to all the previous updates, plus our prayer list and details on how to make an offering.

We continue to pray for all of those who are still in confinement and those who are making the incredibly difficult decisions about when to relax the rules. We also keep in our prayers all of those essential workers who are putting their own health at risk.

Let's continue to Stay Safe.

Blessings
Philip

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

1. Sunday Service

6th Sunday of Easter Playlist: https://bit.ly/StBAC_Easter6

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. Coffee Morning 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 – *postponed a week: now on Monday, 25th May at 6pm*

Saving Fish from Drowning by Amy Tan

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 posted on our YouTube Channel.

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

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

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

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