

Dear Friends

This is the tenth update from the island – and St Barts’ second week post-confinement. We do see the news from around the world, which is still badly affected by the virus, and pray for those affected and the decision-makers who struggle with trying to allow economies to re-open whilst protecting their fellow citizens – no easy feat!

Nearly all of the shops in Gustavia have reopened – many with ‘Soldes’ signs appearing in their windows to encourage the locales with merchandise on sale. Likewise, most restaurants and bars are open now, with Le Select looking particularly busy last Friday night! I also noticed that the old Pipiri Palace (and more recently Galawa) is taking advantage of the lull to undergo a major refit! And The Voyager has restarted daily sailings between St Barts and the French side of St Martin.

The island has announced a change to the regulations for those arriving on the island (other than from the other French Caribbean islands), where they will have the choice between 14 days in ‘strict’ quarantine or a Covid-19 test on arrival and again 7 days later, while agreeing to stay away from shops, restaurants etc during those initial 7 days. However, at this stage, it seems it is still only returning residents or those with a pressing need who will be allowed entry.

The reopening has meant that there have been several visitors in the church during the week, finding a quiet moment for prayer and lighting a candle; and likewise, a few people enjoying a shady corner in the Brook Lacour garden. It therefore seems a timely moment for us to think about dear Brook, who is still in the Care Home on the island. The opening video this week has some wonderful photographs of times past, as well as some pictures from the Garden Party event we held last year to raise funds for the garden.

This Sunday we are celebrating Christ’s Ascension, held over from last Thursday, and we have a guest preacher – the Venerable Bob Hales, the Archdeacon Emeritus of Ontario; who has been a regular visitor to the Church as part of our visiting clergy program, along with his wife Faye, albeit mostly during the low season.

Our meditation piece this week is Pachelbel’s Canon in D and then we finish our Sunday Playlist with another version of the song *The Blessing*, which we included two weeks ago and which drew a large number of comments from you all, as well as becoming a huge worldwide hit. The words of The Blessing, whilst sounding so poignant for the times right now, are actually taken from the Old Testament’s Book of Numbers! This week’s version is in French, but the words “He is for you” and “a thousand generations, and your children and their children” sound just as good in any language. For ease of reference, I have set out the full lyrics below.

We will hold our usual virtual Zoom coffee hour at 10am on Sunday (details below) and I hope that Father Bob and Faye will be online too – do think about joining us.

Below are also details of our Bestseller Book Group (to be held on Monday 25th May), as well as our virtual Taizé services; a link to all our previous updates; our prayer list and details on how to make an offering (either online or by cheque).

We hold in our prayers all of those who are ill or suffering during the current situation, as well all those who are striving to help bring it to a conclusion. Let's continue to Stay Safe – it's not over yet!

With 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

Ascension Sunday Playlist: https://bit.ly/StBAC_AscensionSunday

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/donations/>

-

3. Prayer List

Brook Lacour

Lucy Day

Nat Day

Valerie Trangmar

Rosemond Greaux

Paul-Lancelot Clequin

4. Coffee Morning Zoom meeting: Sunday 10am

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. Next Bestseller Book Club – 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 also posted on our YouTube Channel.

There are several virtual services uploaded, including a new one this week; as well as composite playlists with 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

8. The Blessing – lyrics

*The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you
And give you peace
Amen*

*May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children and their children*

*May His presence go before you
And behind you and beside you
All around you and within you
He is with you, He is with you*

*In the morning In the evening
In your coming and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you*

La Benediction

*Ton Dieu te bénit
Et te garde
Que son visage brille sur toi
Qu'il t'accorde sa grâce
Que son visage se lève sur toi
Te donne la paix
Amen*

*Que sa faveur vienne sur toi
S'étende à mille générations
Sur ta famille et tes enfants
Et les enfants de leurs enfants*

*Que sa présence soit devant toi
Et sans relâche soutienne tes pas
Qu'elle te comble et t'inonde
Il est pour toi, toujours en toi*

Dès le matin jusqu'au coucher

*À chaque pas veillant sur toi
Dans les larmes et dans la joie
Il est pour toi, toujours en toi*

--

Philip Trangmar
Parish Administrator
+590 (0)690 54 17 99