

# E-ffervescence

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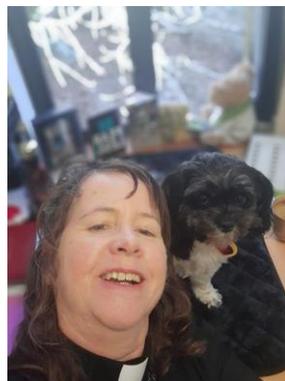
## Finding Peace & Relaxation

I must confess that I have found the last few weeks exhausting! Like many others, I have found myself confronted with not only a return to ways of being which I haven't experienced during lock down, but also the need to adjust my assumptions about how our parish life is going to function in a period of continuing change. I am prayerfully hopeful that we have dealt with all the necessary immediate adjustments (for now) and can look forward to a time of more gentle adjustment, as we as a community learn to grow together.

One of the many precious ways I find peace and relaxation is the presence of my dog, Minnie (short for Minerva), a very 'mini' cavoodle. When I can, I bring her to the office, where she sits by the window or on my knee as I work. She is a valued companion and an amazing source of comfort. I just hope that I am as good a friend to her as she is to me!

It is heartening to know that the Community Café Breakfast will begin next week, the Hatherly Hall is going to be populated with a Pastoral team for two hours each day during the week, that Cath is working her magic with her various Cathedral communities, home groups are doing their thing, and Stop Inn is as busy as it ever was!

*Arohanui  
Jacqui*



*(& Minnie)*

# Spirituality

## Rebekah's Story- Sunday at 10am

Well, the Genesis party has well and truly started!

We have delved into Hagar's story. Hagar faced numerous obstacles in her life. Hagar was a woman, a foreigner, a slave, a mother, someone who was perceived, through no fault of her own, as being dangerous and, ultimately, Hagar was cast aside, along with her son, to die in the wilderness. Yet, amid her considerable struggles, God heard her cries, saw her plight, and blessed her. And, yet in this story, we encountered we the "God who sees."

We have contemplated the disconcerting set of events that unfolded in the mountains of Moriah along with Abraham's extreme faith and trust in God.

This week we consider the story of Isaac and Rebekah. The story of Isaac and Rebekah is yet another story in Genesis that shows life if full of ups and downs. It is a story that tells us that life is messy, but that amid this messiness that God is at work. God is at work, drawing human beings in toward healing and wholeness through the ups and downs of life.

## Catch those of you who can make it on Sunday Dan

### A bit of cultural background- What constitutes 'Family' in Genesis?

*Families were incomplete without children, notably sons.*

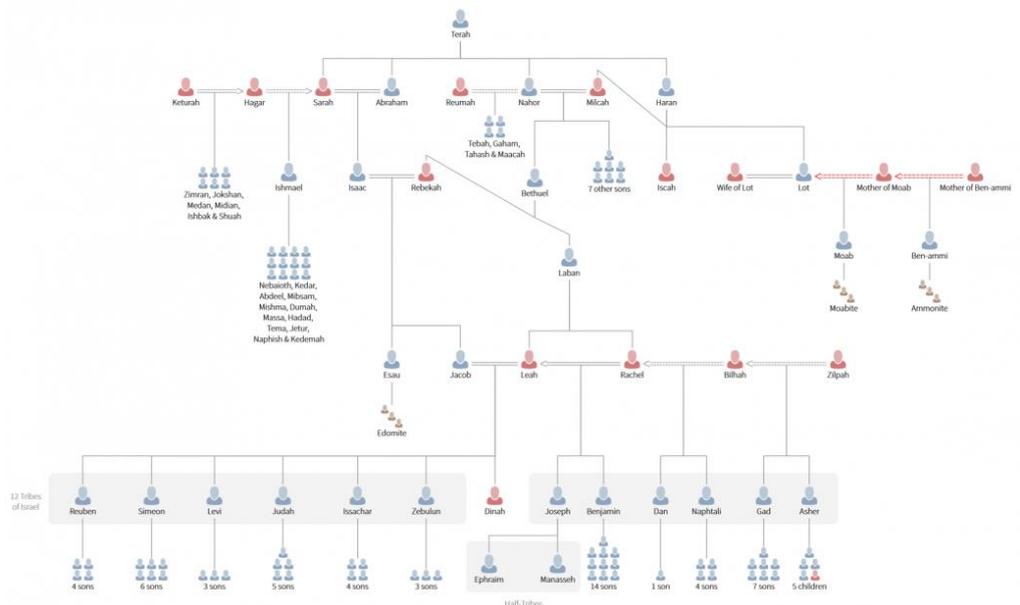
- Sons are the ones who stay with and contribute to the father's household.

- Daughters are "given' (in actuality 'sold") to other families.

- They invest in other father's families as the wives of other sons

- Because a daughter will eventually

be lost to the family anyway, the lack of daughters is never viewed with the same disappointment as lack of sons.



- Therefore, daughters-in-law assume priority over daughters
- Sons must have wives for the family to grow and the line to continue, wives who will fit well into the family.

*Fathers are essential to families*

- Without fathers, families disintegrate into widows and orphans, unconnected and marginalized citizens at best.

*What about mothers?*

- Essential to families- temporarily
- Needed to bear children, but once children are weaned, they tend to disappear from the biblical narrative.

*The stories in Genesis both mine and undermine this understanding of family.*

- Fathers are primary, but they are often ineffective.
- Mothers lack the authority of fathers, yet they play prominent roles in the structuring of the family, often shaping the structure of the next generation by determining (by strategy or identity) which son will inherit or be favoured
- Sons tend to end up due to the patriarchal system of primogeniture, in competition and conflict.
- Daughters, when present at all, are for the most part ignored or are used as pawns in men's business dealings.
- Daughters-in-law exert more influence on the family, usually in efforts to secure their own economic and societal position. They must actively make inroads into the family power structure, which they can do most easily by giving birth to male children who will assume the leadership of the family.

*Rebekah is the quintessential daughter-in-law who becomes a mother.*



- Leaves her own family to join a family she has never seen before and geography forms a permanent barrier to her family of origin. It is imperative she establish and safeguard for herself a respected place in her own household.
- Rebekah then quickly moves to the center of the action.
  - o She is a woman of initiative, knowledge and a woman whose story takes a bittersweet turn.
  - o She is also the woman who upsets the status quo

- When we meet Rebekah in Genesis 24, Abraham is old; Sarah is dead. Isaac, the son of the promise is ready to take his place. Daughters neither exist, not are they missed. It is Rebekah, the daughter-in-law that will make all the difference in this family's story.
- The story is structured around a patriarch's commission and a servant's quest. The objective of the venture is to find a wife for Isaac- a suitable wife. A woman from Abraham's family is the goal.
- The servant departs with ten camels loaded with gifts to secure his prize. He meets Rebekah at a well. She offers him a drink and volunteers to water his camels. Her timely generosity and her lineage convince the servant that she is the woman for Isaac.

*And who better to tell the rest of the tale, that the woman herself- Rebekah...  
at ten o'clock on Sunday!*

## **Meditation of the Week!**

### **Be Still and Listen...**

Like every one of us, Rebekah was a mixture of qualities- both positive and negative. And those qualities brought consequences both for herself and those close to her. In our prayers today, you are encouraged to do what Rebekah sometimes neglected to do- take time to both talk and listen to God, who will hear and respond to our prayers...

**Faithful God, we pray for the gift of deeper listening to you,  
so that we may trust you  
in a way that alters our dependence on everything else,  
and allows us a clearer vision  
as to the direction of our lives.**

**Faithful God,  
we remember all the places in our world  
where life is stressful and unfair.  
Let your loving presence be sensed and recognised,  
bringing peace and goodness and hope.**

**Faithful God,  
help us be aware of your presence  
when we let each other down,  
mishandle opportunities,  
and come to the end of our strength or patience;  
bless us with your love that never lets us down.  
Faithful God, we place into your loving keeping  
all those who have died,  
knowing their dependence on you  
and your limitless mercy.**

**We thank you for them, and for their gifts to the world.  
Faithful God, whose promises stand sure for ever,  
we thank you for your patience with us  
and your refusal to never give up on us.  
Enable us to have the wisdom  
to see beyond our everyday concerns  
to trust in you and take the time to listen.**

# Weekly Notices

## *Reminder to Vestry/ Chapter Members:*

Sunday 12 July- 11 am- Strategic Planning; 12 noon- Lunch with Chapter; 1pm Tikanga Rua model for Chapter and Vestry led by Archbishop Philip.

## *A Health And Safety Reminder*

For the foreseeable future we will be sharing our Cathedral Site with a construction operation. For your own safety please stay out of the fenced off areas and follow the directions of the signs on site and any verbal directions you may be given. Thank you for your patience and tolerance.

We are in the process of updating our safety information and will keep you in the loop with any changes. For now, in the (unlikely) event of an Emergency while you are using Hatherly Hall please the new assembly point is the wooden seat with the red sides, next to the Remembrance Garden.

## *Upcoming organ recitals for July*

Tuesday 7 July @ 1.00pm - St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Plymouth

Thursday 16 July @ 12.15pm - Taranaki Interim Cathedral

Tuesday 28 July @ 11.15am - Wesley Methodist Church Hāwera

Wednesday 29 July @ 11.30am - St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Stratford

## *Taranaki Daily News and Midweek ad error*

Eagle eyes parishioners spotted that the Daily News and Midweek newspapers ran an old ad of ours this week without telling us! The ads date back a while and contained some incorrect information which was regrettable. However the good news is, the error got us talking and moving forward Taranaki Newspapers will run a free (up-to-date) ad for us every month!

## *Parish Forum Meeting – July 5*

A reminder that there will be a Parish Forum Meeting after the 10am service this Sunday (July 5th) in Peace Hall. All welcome!

## *AGM – August 15*

The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 August following the 10 am Service.

## *Invite to Archbishop Philip's 21st!*

Next Friday it will be 21 years since Philip was consecrated Bishop in Taranaki. There will be a special Service of Thanksgiving at 11.00am in Peace Hall on Saturday July 11th.

# Checking In

Kia Ora whanau. The school holidays are upon us! Embrace all the wonderful opportunities to reconnect with each other and (weather permitting) enjoy getting out and about together.

On that note, we will meet at Brooklands zoo this Sunday at 10-11am and spend some time gathering in prayer and play. Bring something to share for morning tea. At 11, if you have time, we'll head down (with any leftover morning tea down) to Peace Hall.

There will be no Faith Crew sessions during the school holidays but I will be presenting some chances to connect and gather together so stay tuned.

Arohanui Cath

# Sunday's Readings

## **Genesis 24:34-38; 42-49; 58-67** **The Marriage of Iscca and Rebekah**

<sup>34</sup> So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup> The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

<sup>42</sup> "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup> I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," <sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

<sup>45</sup> "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'<sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will."<sup>59</sup> So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads, may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from<sup>[a]</sup> Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup> Isaac went out in the evening to walk<sup>[b]</sup> in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup> And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, <sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

# Weekly Readings List

## This week's readings

Sunday, July 5 – Saturday, July 11



### SUN July 5

Gen 22:1-14, Ps 13  
Rom 6:12-23, Matt 10:40-42

#### Morning prayer:

Ps 52, 53, Deut 15:1-11

Acts 27:13-44

Evening prayer Ps 50  
1 Sam 28:3-19, Luke 17:20

### MON July 6 (*Thomas More, Scholar, 1535*)

Hosea 2:14-16,19-20

Ps 145:2-9, Matt 9:18-26

Morning Prayer: Ps 80, (82)

Judg 13:1-24, Luke 17:20-end

Evening Prayer: Ps 85, (86)  
Job 33, Rom 14:13-end

### TUE July 7

Hosea 8:4-7,11-13

Ps 103:8-12, Matt 9:32-end

Morning Prayer: Ps (87) 89:1-18

Judg 14, Luke 18:1-14

Evening prayer: Ps 89:19-end

Job 38, Rom 15:1-13

### WED July 8

Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12

Ps 115:3-10, Matt 10:1-7

Morning Prayer: Ps 119:105-128

Judg 15:1-16:3, Luke 18:15-30

Evening prayer: Ps 91,(93) Job 39  
Rom 15:14-21

### THU July 9

Hosea 11:1,3-4,8-9

Ps 105:1-7, Matt 10:7-15

Morning prayer: Ps (90), 92

Judg 16:4-end, Luke 18:31-end

Evening prayer: Ps 94  
Job 40, Rom 15:22-end

### FRI July 10

Hosea 14:2-end

Ps 80:1-7, Matt 10:16-23

Morning prayer: Ps 88, (95)

Judg 17, Luke 19:1-10

Evening prayer: Ps 102  
Job 41, Rom 16:1-16

### SAT July 11

Isa 6:1-8, Ps 51:1-7

Matt 10:24-33

Morning prayer:

Ps (96), 97, (100),

Judg 18:1-20,27-end

Luke 19:11-27

Evening prayer: Ps 104  
Job 42, Rom 16:17-end