

Effervescence

Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary | 37 Vivian St , New Plymouth
Phone (06) 758 3111 | www.taranakicathedral.org.nz

I am very grateful for the opportunity to continue to discover ways to get to know you better as time passes. This past weekend the Parish Forum was a helpful connection, as was the Tuesday morning breakfast.

I began my work as Spiritual Supporter (Chaplain) at Tainui Rest Home, where Mary Harker and Dan will join me in the near future. At present, we are contracted to each be present for three hours one day a week. Many of our valued parishioners now reside at Tainui, and I am pleased that they are able to have their spiritual needs met in this way.

Sunday services are being developed to have a point of difference between them. The 8 am continues with a traditional '404' service, including readings, creed, traditional prayers. The 10 am is now to focus on a theme for the day, which may include different ways of presenting scripture and prayer. Despite some differences in delivery of the "Word", the traditional eucharistic liturgical format will be followed. Christopher Luke will continue to develop the choir, and provide beautiful music to accompany beautiful words and actions!

Dan and I are learning to use the Peace Hall Space to maximum benefit, which means uncomplicated and simple. Our 'special' services (eg Patronal Festival) will include traditional processions, and all the intricacies of a formal service.

Our main concern is to allow those who join us to continue to grow into their relationship with God, and to have a sacred space in which to do so. There is (in my opinion) nothing more profound than being part of a sacred service where God's Spirit is palpably present, when our words, song, silence and sense of solidarity work together to allow God's Spirit to flow from us and to us. That is the place where transformation truly happens, and that is why I feel privileged to be with you at this time – in your sacred (if transitional) space.

Arohanui
Jacqui



Spirituality

(No, you're not having déjà vu. This is the same content which ran with Dan's message last week. Apologies, it was meant to be held for today's issue. Hopefully a re-reading illuminates more insights!)

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

Families were incomplete without children, notably sons.

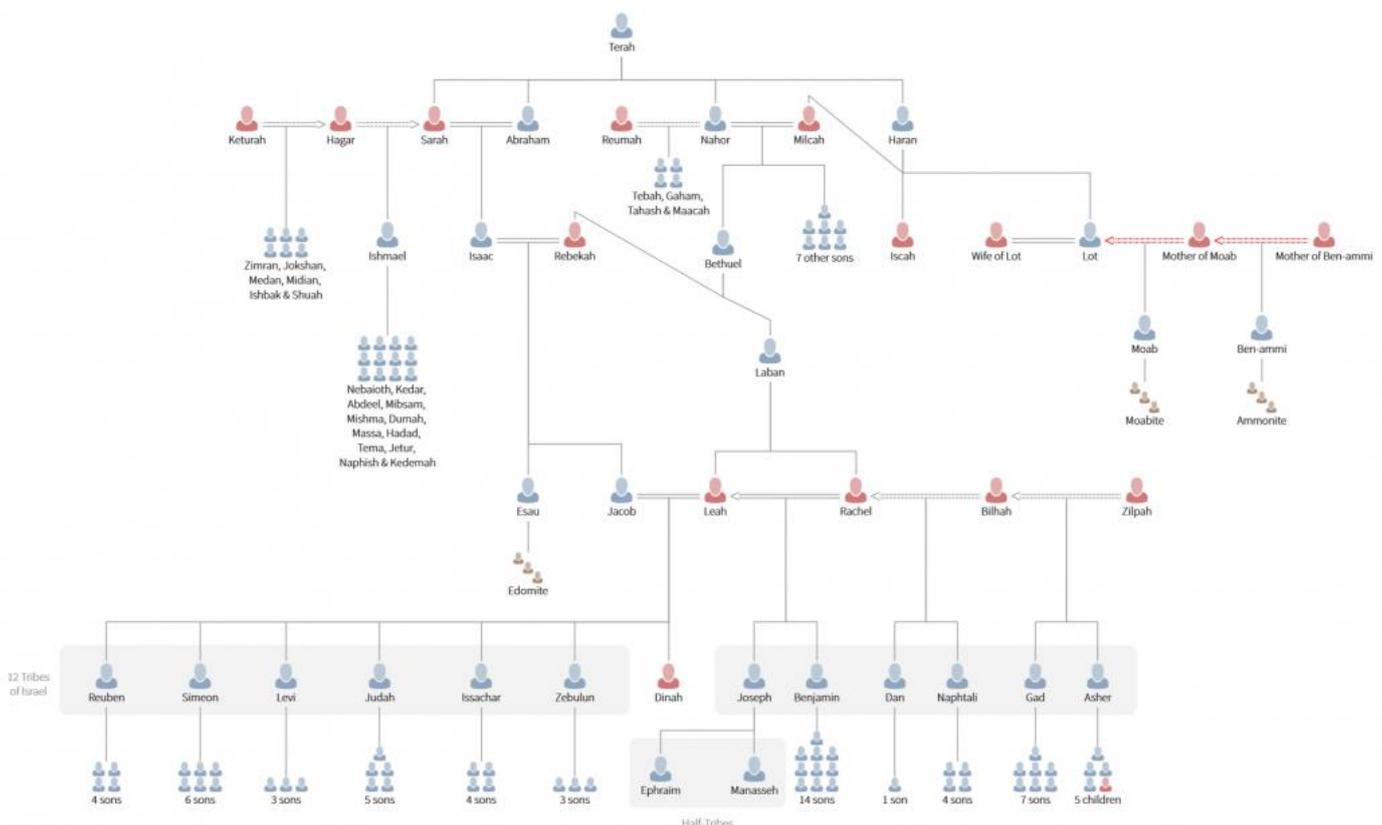
- Sons are the ones who stay with and contribute to the father's household.
- Daughters are "given" (in actuality 'sold') to other families.
- They invest in other father's families as the wives of other sons
- Because a daughter will eventually be lost to the family anyway, the lack of daughters is 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 marginalised 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.

- She is a woman of initiative, knowledge and a woman whose story takes a bittersweet turn.
- 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 concern
to trust in you and take the time to listen.**

Weekly Notices

Vestry/ Chapter Meet on Sunday 12th

Please meet in the Upper Hatherly:

11 am Strategic Planning;

12 noon Lunch with Chapter;

1pm Tikanga Rua model for Chapter and Vestry led by Archbishop Philip.

Fellowship Meeting July 23rd

Our next St Mary's Fellowship Meeting will be on Thursday July 23rd at 12 noon in the Peace Lounge.

Midweek Services Back On

Midweek Eucharist services are beginning from this week and are follows:

- Bishop's Eucharist – 7 am Tuesdays in Upper Hatherly Chapel ("easiest" access currently is parking on Robe Street and walking down)
- Eucharist – 10am, Wednesdays in the Interim Cathedral (Peace Hall)
- Hakari Tapu – 12 noon Wednesday 15th July (and ongoing on the 3rd Wednesday each month in Peace Hall).

Community Café Open

Our Community Café is open again – Tuesdays from 7.30am till 10.00am. Tell you friends, neighbours and family! All welcome.

If you are interested in being a volunteer at the café, call Jen Smart in the office, 75 83111.

E-ffervescence newsletter

If you cannot access the internet/email and would like to collect a black and white copy of E-ffervescence at next Sunday's service (or from the Office) please call Michelle our Communications person (Jen in the office can put you through to her) on a Tuesday or Wednesday between 9.30am-2.30pm.

Upcoming organ recitals for July

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.

Checking In

This past Sunday there was a Parish Forum after our 10am service. For those who couldn't make it, here's a run-down of the key, new information passed on

- Wonderful news from Jacqui! From August 1, Peace Hall will become a dedicated sacred space for the parish. Jacqui says while we all look forward to St Mary's reopening in the future, we must also be mindful of living in the present and prioritise our spirituality and relationship with God, our Church and our fellow parishioners right now.

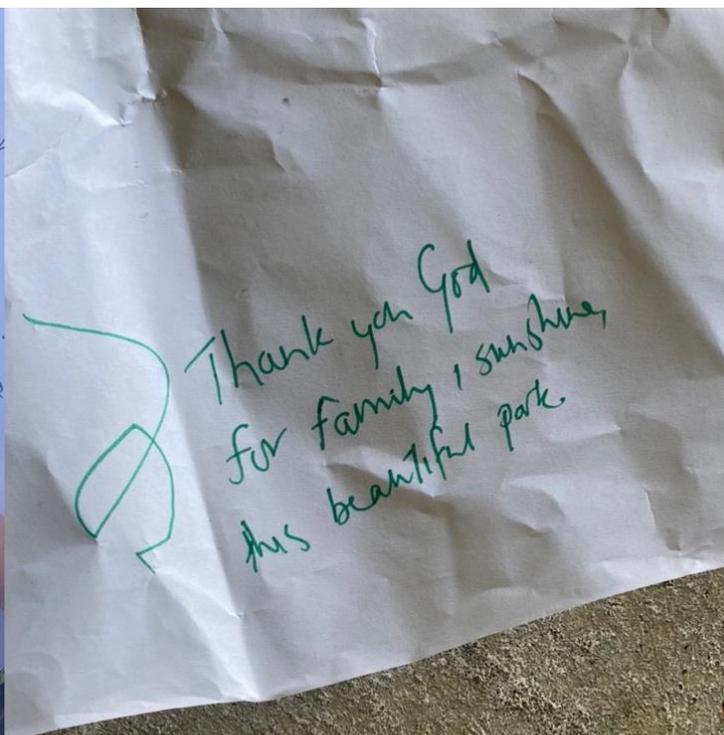
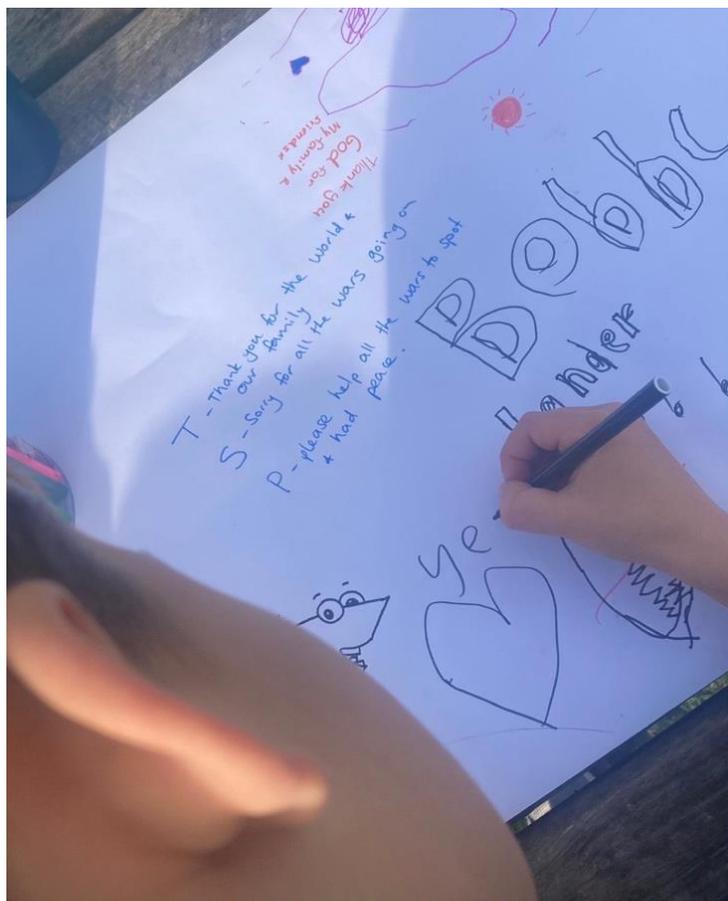
In related good news, Jacqui has managed to negotiate with the groups currently hiring Peace Hall and most are moving to one of our other spaces (Peace Lounge and Hatherly Hall). Once we factor in savings (cleaning/caretaker services) there won't be any loss of income.

- Jacqui explained that she is trialling having points of difference between the 8am and 10am Sunday Services. The 8am service is a traditional one based on the Anglican prayer book while the 10am service has more flexibility which allows a theme to be explored each week or across a number of weeks. Jacqui reassured people the Gospel would return to the 10am service in August at the conclusion of the current Genesis series. At the suggestion of a Parishioner, we are going to find and make available the 1662 Little Green Prayer Book.
- Jenny Goddard reported that all is progressing well with the Project and talked about some upcoming milestones:
 - The Vicarage is scheduled to be moved next week (week commencing July 13). It will initially go further forward on the site so that more excavation work can happen. By the end of the week it should be sitting on its new foundations and Clelands are expected to finish their work in the first week of August
 - There will be a break of several months before refurbishment of the Vicarage and building of the Whare start (once a contract had been awarded).
 - Story Inc are beginning some community consultation to deepen their understanding of the stories being told in the exhibition. They are holding a Hui where invited representatives will workshop ideas and parishioners can expect to receive a survey in upcoming weeks so they can also contribute.
- Funding was discussed and Jenny said that a new round of fundraising was currently being planned and would roll out soon.

Faith Crew α

Kia Ora Faith crew whanau. What a glorious gathering we had at the zoo last Sunday. Great korero, kai and prayer doodles. This Sunday we will meet at the bike park in Bell Block at 10am for a similar type of gathering. Bring something for morning tea. I'll bring the prayer inspiration and tea, coffee and milo.

Arohanui, Cath



Sunday's Readings

Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." ²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. ²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by

sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give

Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁰Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' ¹⁴With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and

their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.’ ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. ¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Collect

God, you watched over the Hebrew women
from Sarah to Elizabeth,
and also to Mary who brought Jesus into the world.
As we remember again today
the life of Rebekah,
Help us to build on the things she can teach us
and appreciate all she has left us.
Hear this prayer for your love’s sake.
Amen

Weekly Readings List

SUN July 12

Gen 25:19-34, Ps 119:105-112
Rom 8:1-11, Matt 13:1-9,18-23
Morning prayer: Ps 64, 65,
Deut 28:1-14, Acts 28:17-31
Evening prayer Ps 60, (63),
2 Sam 7:18-29, Luke 19:41-20:8

MON July 13 (*Silas, Companion of St Paul*)

Isa 1:11-17, Ps 50:7-15
Matt 10:34-11:1
Morning Prayer: Ps 98, (99,101)
1 Sam 1:1-20, Luke 19:28-40
Evening Prayer: Ps 105
Ezek 1:1-14, 2 Cor 1:1-14

TUE July 14

Isa 7:1-9, Ps 48:1-7
Matt 11:20-24
Morning prayer: Ps 103
1 Sam 1:21-2:11, Luke 19:41-end
Evening prayer: Ps 107
Ezek 1:15-2:2 2, Cor 1:15-2:4

WED July 15 (*Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862, translated 971*)

Isa 10:5-7,13-16
Ps 94:5-11, Matt 11:25-27
Morning Prayer: Ps (110),111,(112)

1 Sam 2:12-26, Luke 20:1-8
Evening prayer: Ps 119:129-152
Ezek 2:3-3:11, 2 Cor 2:5-end

THU July 16 (*Henry Williams, Missionary, 1867*)

Isa 26:7-9,16-19, Ps 102:14-21
Matt 11:28-end

Morning prayer: Ps (113),115
1 Sam 2:27-end, Luke 20:9-19
Evening prayer: Ps (114), 116, (117)
Ezek 3:12-end, 2 Cor 3

FRI July 17

Isa 38:1-6,21-22, 7-8
Ps 32:1-8, Matt 12:1-8
Morning prayer: Ps 139
1 Sam 3:1-4:1a, Luke 20:20-26
Evening prayer: Ps 130, (131), (137)
Ezek 8, 2 Cor 4

SAT July 11 (*Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550*)

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