



## Jacqui Writes

What an interesting time to join you as Co-leader of your Cathedral community!

Although we haven't 'officially' met, here I am, compiling my first communication with you! I wish it could be in person, but unfortunately we all know that is not possible. The object of this publication is not to compete with all the words and realities that we are being bombarded with as each of us grapples in our own way with lockdown.

It is also not to give you a pile of dates and times regarding how we, the Cathedral family, are going to organise ourselves over the next days and weeks. We simply do not know!

What it is attempting to do is firstly produce a written communication for those who do not have access to the internet. It will be the first and perhaps the only one!

Also to reassure you that despite all the turmoil, we are developing a system going forward so that there are a bunch of people who will support our communication and ministry, initially through phone contact. Mary Harker is the contact point for this. Her contact details are included later in the service sheet.

For those with access to email and web sites, the Diocesan Website is an excellent resource for on-line spiritual resources and information. As things develop, we will also be adding to our own website (starting with worship for this Sunday!).

It is most ironic that we enter this time of lock down as we also enter the last weeks of Lent and Holy Week. We've added the daily readings here so that you might be encouraged to walk with Jesus through this time, and his time, knowing that God is enfolding us all in an indestructible and eternal love. Know that morning and evening prayer will continue to be said by ourselves and throughout the world. By praying we connect with each other, regardless of physical proximity.

My homily for this Sunday can be found in the included service sheet, and it is my hope that it may give you reassurance during these times. Please note that is written to be said aloud, rather than an academic essay!

Keep in touch; be kind; care for yourself and others. Activate the power of prayer. It is the most powerful communication tool in the universe!

Arohanui, Jacqui



*Jay writes*

Tēna koutou katoa.  
Ko Taranaki tōku mounga  
Ko Te Atiawa te iwi  
Ko Jay Ruka ahau.

It is a privilege to introduce myself briefly to you, yet apologise it has to be in this medium and not personally.

I am looking forward to kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) very soon! I am the honoured partner to Erin Ruka, (from the USA) and proud Dad to Ezra (13), Indie (11) and Rya (8). Erin and I have sensed for many years the leading of Wairua Tapu to return to Taranaki. Yet never could we have foreseen it would be under these special circumstances of a new season in the life of Meri Tapu. I am looking forward to working with Jacqui, and with you all, to follow Christ together at this moment in time.

Mā te wā  
Jay Ruka

## *Bishop Philip Writes*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
We are all of us, right around the world adjusting to a situation which is rapidly changing.

We have the added pressure on all of us here in New Zealand preparing to manage life under Level 4 conditions. I know that you will have concerns about people in the coming weeks and I encourage the use of technology to maintain contact. Nothing beats a telephone call though, so please work at those systems within your worshipping communities that gather people up with everyone having a person who is in touch with them in that more personal way.

Each Sunday evening at 7pm I will offer Night Prayer from my home – from my Household to your Household, and this will be available both through Zoom and through Facebook livestream. You will be sent information about how to access both directly. Access will also be available through our Diocesan website. Please encourage as many as possible to join me and Belinda.

There is no doubt that ministry units will experience financial challenges in the coming months, so a letter from the Diocesan Manager and the chair of Finance and Audit will come to clergy, treasurers and wardens in the

next 24 hours with some advice.

We are closing our offices and like everyone else the office team will be working from home. However we remain available to you by phone and email so please do make contact as you need. We will keep in good touch with you all as things progress. Please use my mobile 027 4505273 to phone or text, or send me an email on bishop@wtanglican.nz . All the office emails are being attended by the staff team who are set up at home as are TML staff.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.”  
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

May God bless you all.

Kia Kaha  
+Philip



## **Websites**

Diocesan

<https://www.wtanglican.nz/>

Cathedral of St Mary

<https://www.taranakicathedral.org.nz/>

## **Contact Details**

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