

E-ffervescence!

Friday 08 May 2020

E-ffervescence ... Week Six!

Jesus as mother hen- a biblical view of mothering

(and most appropriately our theme for Mother's Day on Sunday)

On the western slope of the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem, sits a small chapel called the Dominus Flevit. According to tradition, it was here that Jesus wept over the city that had refused his prophetic ministry. Inside the chapel, the altar is centered in front of a high arched window that overlooks the city of Jerusalem. Down below, on the front of the altar, is a picture representing that event. It is a mosaic of a white hen with a golden halo around her head. Her red comb resembles a crown, and her wings are spread wide to shelter the pale-yellow chicks that crowd around her feet. There are seven of them, with black dots for eyes and orange dots for beaks. They look happy to be there. The hen looks ready to spit fire if anyone comes near her babies. The mosaic is rimmed with red words in Latin. Translated into English they read,



"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

The last phrase is set outside of the mosaic, in a pool of red underneath the chicks' feet:

"you were not willing!"

For me, these words rank amongst the most tragic words of scripture. Tragic for Jerusalem, tragic for Jesus,

tragic for all humanity, all time, tragic for ourselves. While it is easy for me, anyway, to feel arrogant about the attitude of those 'chicks' in Jerusalem whom Jesus was referring to in our scripture, as if it's their problem, their fault, that they were the ones who weren't willing, who got it wrong, it is humbling for me to remember that scripture isn't just about God's word to me about them, in order for me to feel superior, its about God's word to all humanity, through the ages.

"You were not willing!"

is surely as much a lament about you and I as it is about those inhabiting that ancient city.

*"God could not
be everywhere, and
therefore he made
mothers."*

- RUDYARD KIPLING



Because if I'm honest, I have to admit that given the huge range of animals available, Jesus' choice of a hen as an image to describe himself does not inspire much confidence.

Why a hen???

There is a very good reason, which I will explore on Sunday!

Tentative Notice of Annual General Meeting

In the event that the country moves to Level Two on or near to 11 May, our AGM can take place on Sunday May 31, at 11 am. This fulfils the statutory requirement to give a minimum of 21 day's

notice. If, however, on 11 May, we find that the move to Level Two is delayed so our meetings cannot be arranged within time, AGMs will need to be cancelled and we will ask Standing Committee to work with the Diocesan Chancellor to develop a one-off exceptional extension as there is no present statutory authority for such a delay. This further guidance would be communicated as soon as possible.



Moving to Alert Level Two

As you are aware, we will receive information on May 11 regarding timing of an imminent move to Alert Level Two. Please be assured that your staff and the Diocese are working and praying behind the scenes, to ensure good communication and processes are put in place after the announcement is given. The situation changes almost daily, therefore waiting for the facts to present themselves, whilst gathering information in the meantime, seems to be the most prudent approach to take.

Tax Donation Receipts

"Tax Donation Receipts will be emailed to parishioners who have registered an email address with us in the near future. If you do not have an email address and cannot wait for the church to reopen (whenever this may be) please let us know and we may be able to deliver them to your letterbox if you live in New Plymouth." *Julie Otene Peoples Warden*

Faith Crew α @Home

Kia ora Tatou

I remember a post doing the rounds on social media a while back, showing a man interviewing people for a position titled "the world's toughest job". The interview begins with an endless list of

MOM: Official Job Description

alarm clock banker censor **CHAUFFEUR** cheerleader
CHEF chief justice chore delegator coach concierge
confidante correctional officer crossing guard
curfew warden diplomat **DISCJOCKEY** entertainer
expectation manager fashion stylist hairdresser
HOMEWORK ADVISOR housekeeper hygiene consultant
internet safety monitor inventory manager JUDGE juggler
loan officer lost and found attendant **MAGICIAN**
NURSE paramedic party planner peacekeeper
personal assistant purchasing agent recreation director
RHETORIC reference librarian relationship specialist
repair person shepherd shipping/receiving agent
smuggler teacher transportation coordinator
TRAVEL AGENT waitress **ZOOKEEPER**

AndreaReiser.com

requirements, the hours almost full time with very little or no pay and applicants are reminded that there will be no annual leave. At the end of the interview, the interviewer then discloses there are in fact already people doing this job to the disbelief of the applicants. The job is, as you may have guessed, that of being a mum. This Sunday is Mother's Day here in Aotearoa. A chance to celebrate our mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, adopted mothers, god mothers, mothers in heaven and other motherly people. We celebrate YOU! What a privilege to spend

time with mothers, grandmothers, aunties, stepmothers, god mother and adopted mothers at our beautiful Pukeko Stomp group. I am grateful for the technology which allows us to still meet virtually at the moment. My prayer is one of thanksgiving for the gifts and love that Jesus has given you all which you share. *Arohanui, Cath*



Anna Jarvis- Founder of Mother's Day

Mother's Day is known mostly as a time for brunches, gifts, cards, and general outpourings of love and appreciation.

But the holiday has more somber roots: It was founded for mourning women to remember fallen soldiers and work for peace. And when the holiday went commercial, its greatest champion, Anna Jarvis, gave everything to fight it, dying penniless and broken in a sanitarium. It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis—Anna's mother—held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day—and who would spend most of her later life fighting what it had become.

Anna Jarvis never had children of her own, but the 1905 death of her own mother inspired her to organize the first Mother's Day observances in 1908.

On May 10 of that year, families gathered at events in Jarvis's hometown of Grafton, West Virginia—at a church now renamed the International Mother's Day Shrine—as well as in Philadelphia, where Jarvis lived at the time, and in several other cities.

But Jarvis's success soon turned to failure, at least in her own eyes.

Anna Jarvis's idea of an intimate Mother's Day quickly became a commercial gold mine centering on the buying and giving of flowers, candies, and greeting cards—a development that deeply disturbed Jarvis. She set about dedicating herself and her sizable inheritance to returning Mother's Day to its reverent roots.



Jarvis incorporated herself as the Mother's Day International Association and tried to retain some control of the holiday. She organized boycotts, threatened lawsuits, and even attacked First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for using Mother's Day to raise funds for charities.

Jarvis's fervent attempts to reform Mother's Day continued until at least the early 1940s. In 1948 she died at 84 in Philadelphia's Marshall Square Sanitarium.

"This woman, who died penniless in a sanitarium in a state of dementia, was a woman who could have profited from Mother's Day if she wanted to," Antolini said.

"But she railed against those who did, and it cost her everything, financially and physically."

Adapted from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/5/140508-mothers-day-nation-gifts-facts-culture-moms/>



Unconventional Mother's Day Gifts

This Mother's Day take a moment to think of all the mothers in the world who are in need. There are millions of women in the world living on less than a dollar a day. There are women in this country who are wondering how they are going to feed or clothe their children from day to day. There are children who need medical attention that their parents may not be able to afford. Anyone who has ever had to worry about such things can deeply sympathize. For those of us who have escaped such worries, we can only imagine the level of instinctive stress that uncertainty can provoke.

There are many ways to celebrate Mother's Day, but here are a few unconventional suggestions that will prove to your own mother that she did a good job raising you. How about donating to our local Foodbank (details below)? If you have some baby furniture or clothing that your own children have outgrown, how about donating that stuff to a local charity (after lockdown)? Does our local hospital have a fund for children who need care? Are there doctors in our community or city who volunteer in clinics overseas who might need supplies? There are countless ways to help support mothers locally and globally. Let your own mother know that you were thinking about her and all of the many things she provided for you along the way...and that you did a good deed in honour of her. It will make her proud.

*Donations to the Food Bank are able to be made through on line banking-
account number 15 3942 0861123 00.*

Worship and other Resources for the Week:

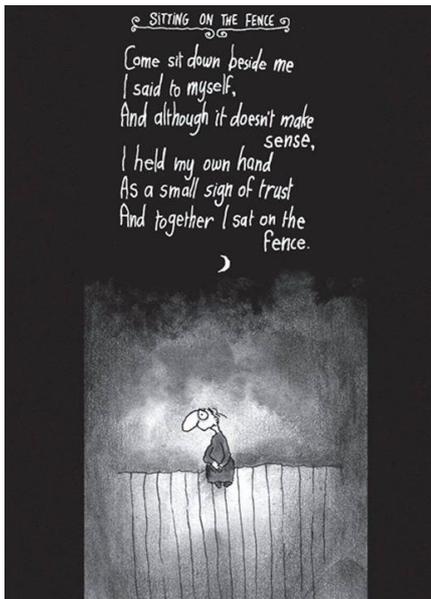
Diocesan Website <https://www.wtanglican.nz/> is a wonderful go-to place for up-to-date information as well as a feast of resources.

Taranaki Cathedral Website: www.taranakicathedral.org.nz

On the left of the menu bar is a tab "Worshipping during Lockdown"

The menu items are 'Resources for Lockdown Period' which is a page containing some explanation and various links. Notably directly to folders in the Home Worship Library, our Face Book page and Easter Alive.

The second menu item is "Home Worship Library" which directs you to a document library with a number of areas containing resources . These include service sheets and readings, there are also a selection of recordings of choral work. Particularly a folder for Holy Week.



Scrolling down the home page you will see the latest blogs loaded to the website. These are being added to daily and this week included the seven words from the cross meditations, a link to the video of the commissioning service and the *E-ffervescence* newsletter.

A bit further down again there is a list of upcoming events.

At the top of the page there are other menus which link to content that is not specific to the current Lockdown.

From anywhere on the website if you click the Cathedral Logo should get back to the top of the Home Page.

In our Home Worship Library you will find the following :

- Readings
- Solo Organ works
- Hymns
- Choral Evensong: each Sunday and Wednesday during the lockdown. We are suggesting you light a candle at 5.00pm and play this recording.

Taranaki Cathedral Facebook Page:

- **Easter Three Worship:** email, website and Facebook- Live at 10 am
- **Faith Crew**

Zoom

- **Coffee Hang with Dan – 10-11.30 am Every Tuesday:** *Instructions to join Zoom coffee: 1) Download the Zoom app (Zoom cloud meetings) 2) At Tuesday at 10am click on the below link or copy and paste it into your web browser and it will take you straight to the meeting (if you don't have Zoom installed, you will be given the option at this point) 3) Zoom link to join coffee group - <https://zoom.us/j/553014152> 4) We will use this same link until further notice (so keep it at the ready on Tuesdays!)*

Meditation of the Week!

*Beyond the surface of mothering
Biblical Mothering....*

We know in our midst there are women and mothers who:

Like Eve, have children with serious rivalry.

Like Hagar, have been discarded for a new family and are mothering alone.

Like Naomi, have tasted the bitterness of a child's death.

Like the mother of Leah and Rachel, knows what it's like to have one child favored over another by society.

Like Hannah, have been separated from your child at a young age.

Like Mary, have a complicated pregnancy story or

Like Tamar, have tried multiple ways to become a mother or

Like Rachel, have counted the months and years while other women in your family and circle of friends become pregnant.

Who like Rebekah, are drawn to one of your children more than the others.

Like David's mother, is raising children after God's heart and though you rejoice in watching them, don't want to rub it in friends' faces.

Like Ham's mother have children whose substance abuse can cause problems.

Like Bathsheba, have sick children who may die.

Like Joseph and Benjamin, experienced the death of their mother.

Like Mary, have children with public legal situations and all you can do is watch.

Like the Shunammite woman when told by Elisha she would become pregnant, replied, "No, please do not mislead your servant!" Like her, not wanting to open doors to hope, only to have them slammed in your face.

Like Hannah, have known the provoking of a family member.

Like many, watched their mothers age and waste before their eyes.

Like Moses' mother, reluctantly gave up her child because it wasn't safe for you to bring her child up herself.

Or who like Pharaoh's daughter, were called to love and nurture children that weren't yours by birth.

Like Timothy's mother and grandmother, are steadily and without much fanfare or recognition teaching your children about the truths of God, sowing seeds for eternity

Like the unnamed women who never quite fit into the norms of society, either never marrying or having children, yet wanting to.

You are in our midst.

We are called to be a people who rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

For the seen and known joys of motherhood, we rejoice and smile and celebrate with you. For the seen and known suffering in motherhood, we ache with you.

**The following are the readings set for Sunday May 10, 2020,
Which you may wish to read and reflect on.**

ACTS 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.
Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
"My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving kindness save me."

1 PETER 2:2-10

Like new-born infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that

the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

**We are using the following reading in worship this Sunday,
as it is Mother's Day**

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Contacts

Jay Ruka	Co-Leader Taranaki Cathedral	jay@wtanglican.nz
Jacqui Paterson	Co-Leader Taranaki Cathedral	jacqui.paterson@taranakicathedral.org.nz
Dan Lander	Assistant Priest	dan@taranakicathedral.org.nz
Cath McVey	Pioneer Minister	cath@taranakicathedral.org.nz
Christopher Luke	Director of Music	music@taranakicathedral.org.nz

Sarah Foy	Dean's Warden	sarahmargie@gmail.com
Julie Otene	People's Warden	julieotene@gmail.com
Mary Harker	Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator	angelamaryharker@gmail.com
Jennifer Smart	Office Manager	jennifer@taranakicathedral.org.nz