

# For Christchurch

by Faye Blake-Cossar

I don't live in Christchurch—haven't done for many years. However, I was born in the garden city and spent my formative years there at school and university, when I also worked as a waitress—at the, sadly now deceased, Cokers Hotel. It was a proper old-fashioned hotel back then, with roast lamb and shrimp cocktails served in the dining room—mostly to travelling salesmen and honeymooners. During my university study I moved to Auckland and later further away.

There's something about things happening in your hometown that goes right to your core. It can both rattle your roots and warm your heart—making you unjustifiably proud (because what did I have to do with it?) of your homeland. This is how I felt about the earthquakes, which I covered back in 2011 in a post entitled 'Can astrology help Christchurch?'<sup>1</sup> I visited New Zealand in 2012 and was there for the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the earthquake that took many lives. I was struck by Kiwis' indomitable spirit to just get on with it. The centre of Christchurch was gone, which was very strange and sad for me. It was if my past had been deleted. However, I could feel the start of something new and different. I was both moved by, and proud of that.

## The Shootings

Now, with the horrific shootings in the mosques, my first thought after the shock was, 'Poor Christchurch, surely they have had enough!' My second thought was, 'Christchurch has mosques?!' I've been away a long time. My blog is really for non-astrologers, although I refer to astrology. So, when I was asked if I would like to give a more technical take on the shootings than I did in my Pisces 2019<sup>2</sup> post, of course I said yes.

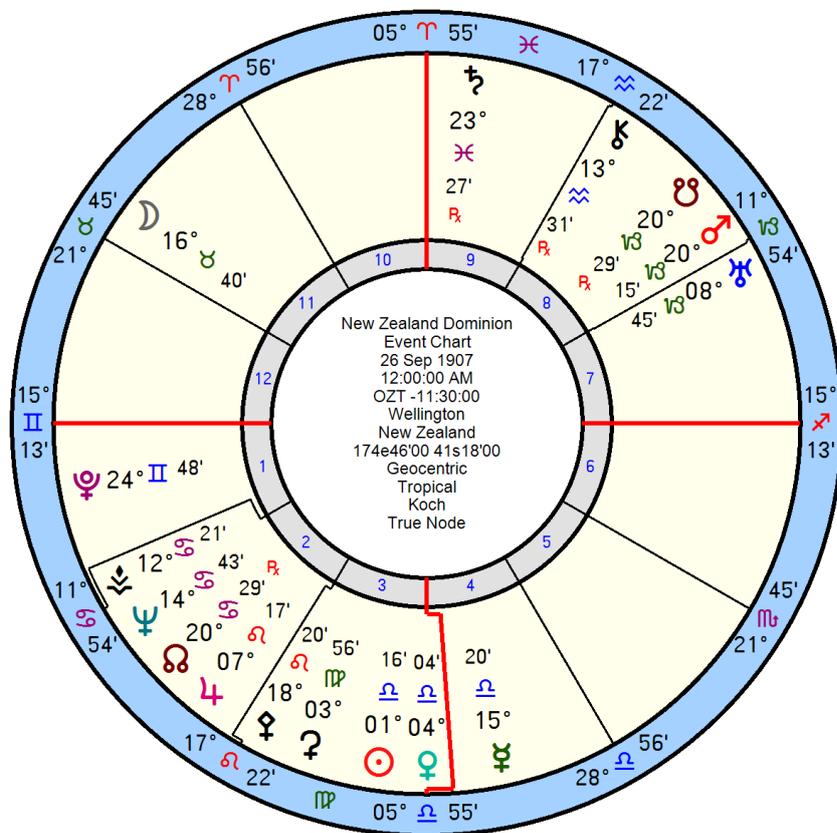


Chart 1: The midnight chart with Koch Houses

## The Charts

I want to take a look at two charts. The ones I have chosen are based on when New Zealand became a dominion, and for the naming of Christchurch. There are more charts that could be examined but you have to stop somewhere.

## New Zealand

Let's look at New Zealand first. Although other charts are interesting, I think the Dominion one is important because this partly depicts NZ's role on the world stage and this is clearly important now. When you live outside a country, I think you see this more clearly. The date

and place for 'dominionhood' is not in question—that is 26th September 1907 in Wellington. I have always used midnight, but in an email exchange with colleague Alan Clay, he rightly pointed out that “the chart for the Dominion is 11am on the 26th September in Wellington, which is the time and date the Prime Minister started reading the royal proclamation to the gathered crowd from the steps of the General Assembly Library in Wellington.” So indeed, that is an official time. This chart has Capricorn rising and Virgo on the MC, with the Libra Sun placed in the 10<sup>th</sup> house. Being an Aquarian I like to go against the grain, and I don't like this chart! I know one should be 'chartist' but one of my specialties is branding (both personal and for companies, using astrology) and way back when a new flag was being discussed for NZ, I wrote a post about country branding and gave advice for the new flag.<sup>3</sup> Not that anyone listened!

### A Branding Digression

I use three points to make a branding profile, something which can be used to create logos, slogans or websites. It creates a 'look and feel' for who you are, as an individual, a company, and even a country—and yes, there is such a thing as country branding! The three points are the Ascendant which says something about our image, the Sun which is our reason for being—our heart, and the MC—our reputation.<sup>4</sup> Sometimes, if there is a very prominent planet on an angle, I might add that. Although Uranus is near the ascendant in the 11am chart, Capricorn and Virgo don't really say NZ to me.

### Back to NZ

And so, I go back to the midnight chart. The actual dominion declaration says: “We do ordain, declare, and command, that on or after the twenty-sixth day of September, one thousand nine-hundred and seven, ...shall be a Dominion.”<sup>5</sup> So that's my story and I'm sticking to it. But on a serious note, I think this chart reflects NZ better. Libra is of course in both charts. The beauty of NZ is often the first thing visitors say when speaking of their visits. People talk to

you. And Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, is right, Kiwi values are fair, peaceful and inclusive. With lots of discussion.

The MC is Aries. The fact that the Silver Fern was in the running for a new flag says a lot about NZ's reputation as a sporting and competitive nation. It has many daring attractions, such as bungy jumping off things way too high to be contemplated. NZ is often first to do things. Women were the first in the world to get the vote, and now Jacinda is hoping to be a new role model for leadership

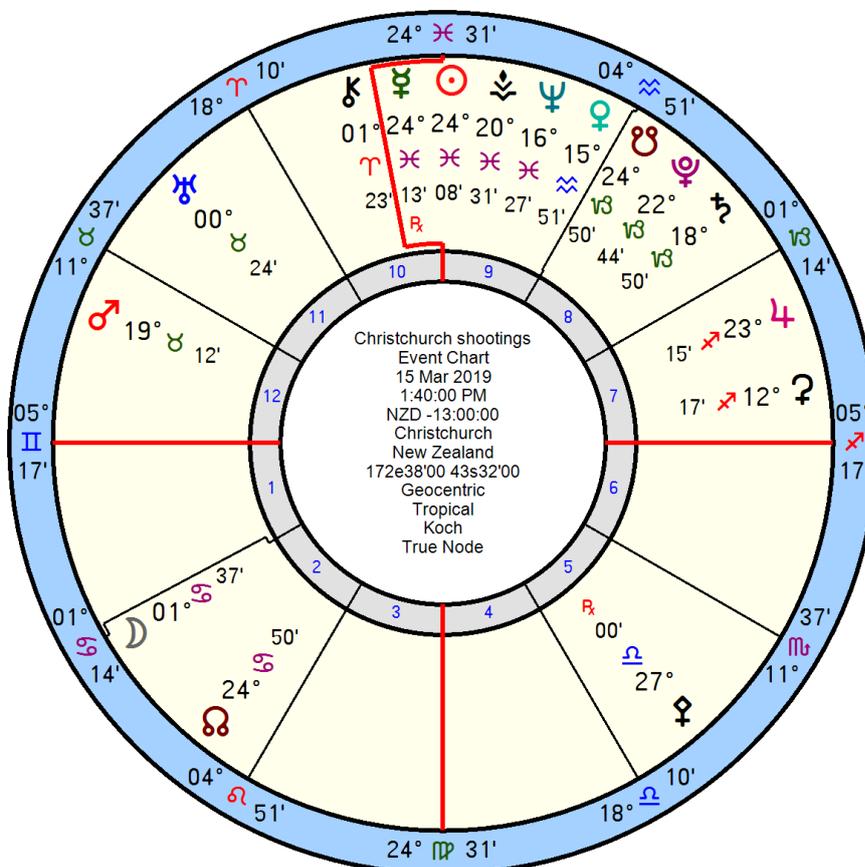


Chart 2: The shooting chart with Koch Houses—this chart is the one to use to answer why here and why now?

(also Aries) by being a human being with compassion, capable of being a working mother. She took very swift action on gun laws—a fact that has certainly reached world headlines. Other past leaders have also showed a willingness to compete. And what about the reputation of the haka!

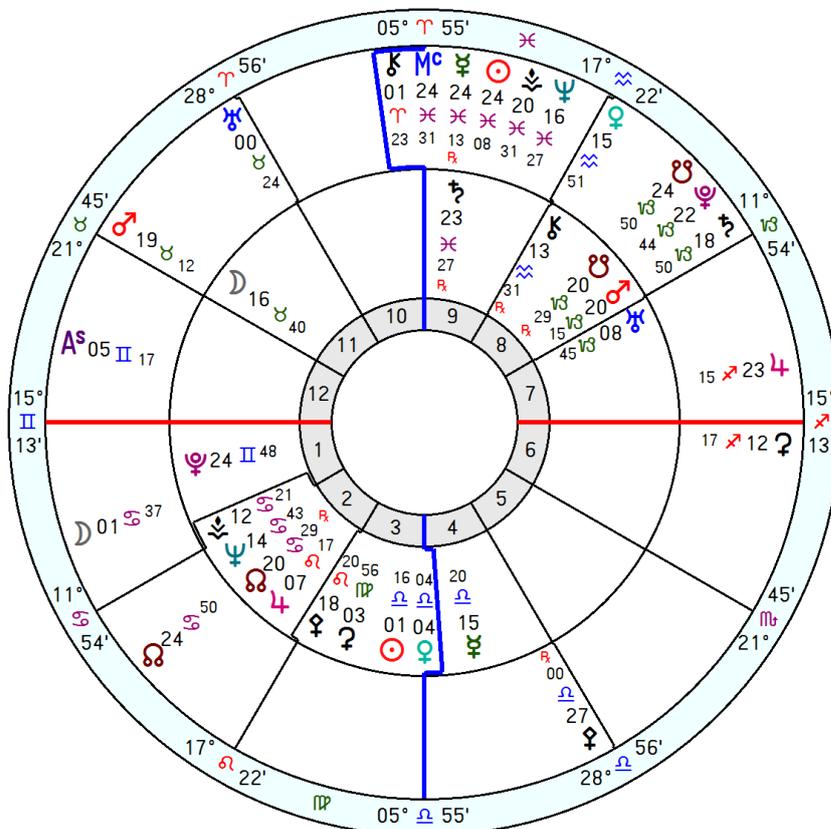
The Ascendant is Gemini. When I visited in 2012, I had forgotten how much people love to engage and chat. And all that wonderful Kiwi humour—I have certainly missed that here in the Netherlands. Here’s what I wrote when discussing the branding for NZ. In Auckland I worked in the IT industry. “When I worked in NZ, I was always amazed at how far ahead we were in the world of communications software. We were often the first to introduce networks in banking and other IT systems. We struggled with being pioneers in what was then known as remote video equipment. But we loved the challenge and were curious enough to ask questions and get answers. There are great networking systems in NZ, and international trading—using our worldwide contacts—has always contributed to our income. This freshness, busy-ness, curiosity and sociability *has* to be in the branding.”

Of course, the Sun conjuncting Venus in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house repeats some of these themes too. So, we have a chart for NZ.

### The Shootings

What was happening on the day of the shootings? The time I have for the start of this terrible act is 13:40 on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Mercury retrograde and right on the MC clearly has something to say. He is also ‘under sunbeams’—very close to the Pisces Sun. This feels like there is nowhere to run from someone who wants to be a hero (Sun) by creating victims (Pisces) at prayer (Pisces). The Moon in Cancer (the public) is wounded (aspect with Chiron) and is square the Sun. Many tried to protect (Cancer) relatives and children.



Another very close aspect in this chart is Mars trine Saturn—trines are not always good. A trine can flow easily, so cruel (Saturn) aggression (Mars) is one way to interpret this part of the chart. Initially there was no stopping the perpetrator.

So how does this chart work as a transit to the Dominion chart?

### Longer transits

There are four transits that are active at the time of the shooting, all of which seem appropriate.

Saturn first. He is definitely in the middle

Ⓜ Charts 3: Inner wheel: NZ dominion—outer wheel: shootings. These charts show how NZ as a whole is affected.

of activating Mercury and, using this midnight time, the ASC and the Moon. Mercury is in Libra in the 4<sup>th</sup> house. Saturn here suggests that NZ should express and make clear what we think, in a peaceful fair way. Of course, it can bring tough messages, but communicating about our 'home' is one way to use this transit.

Saturn with the Moon (the public in a country chart) and the ASC, clearly show the tough times for citizens. Saturn transiting the Moon is a good time to define what the people need. Saturn with the ASC is a good time to take our image seriously. To embrace our communicative nature. To show we can speak about difficult times with responsibility. It could bring more rules and regulations to the populace, but it shows an acceptance of doing the hard work necessary to bring a community together.

### ***Uranus***

On the day of the shooting, Uranus was almost at the point of his last pass (on March 31<sup>st</sup>) of making a quincunx to the Sun. This is an uncomfortable shock and a wakeup call for leaders (the Sun). There were problems with right wing feelings in Christchurch. A new approach (Uranus) was needed. This was indeed a shock for the heart of the nation. Uranus had been active in this way since 2018. It would be interesting to see what happened around the other exact quincunxes on June 11<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> in 2018, but I only have limited time and space!

So, these provide background triggers but what of...

### ***...The Day Itself***

Pluto and Saturn in the sky have got Mars in the chart in a pincer movement. Although the exact transits have either happened or are approaching, this is still a major very heavy and apparently violent trigger. Pluto and Saturn in Capricorn are asking for responsible, deep, tough changes in the world. For NZ this is affecting Mars—the way things are approached. How we defend and fight and how we deal with anger and violence. Mars in Capricorn shows the 'just get on with it' approach. I think Jacinda did absolutely the right thing with this transit. She got gun laws changed. She went black and white (Pluto) on rules (Saturn and Capricorn). She took responsibility for her approach of getting a practical solution. The NZ government took on Turkey and Facebook and stuck to their guns. Pun intended.

### ***22-24 Degrees***

Clearly the Sun, Mercury, the MC, Jupiter, Pluto and the nodes on the day (of course these last ones go on longer), all being between 22 – 24 degrees, are relevant. They trigger the natal Saturn square Pluto in the dominion chart. I think this is also a call for looking at how NZ laws and rules (Saturn) need to be analysed and transformed (Pluto). The question being asked is: how can government control this kind of problem? This is what the Sun is bringing into the spotlight. Saturn squaring Pluto in a natal chart can show a feeling of powerlessness about authority, which can lead to an underground or hidden need to show who is boss. Terrorist acts are sometimes the result of this dynamic. This is a sign that NZ must use this aspect consciously and wisely. Responsible power, wise leadership, passionate goals.

### ***Huber System***

Although other progression techniques are worthy of further study, I have so far just looked at transits. However, I also want to look at a less well-known one. I am a big fan of the Huber Age Point or Age Progression system. It is a very visual technique and easy to use, which is why I like it, as well as the fact that I have used it for many years with good results. Basically, it has a 72-year cycle which starts at the Ascendant. It is the reason I use Koch houses as it only works in this house system. The Age Point is indeed a point that moves around the houses starting at the Ascendant and spending 6 years in each house, starting from the first, no matter what the house size is. So, at any time, the point will be at a particular degree, and 72

years later it will be at that same point again.

So as NZ is older than 72 it is repeating the year 1947 (2019-72). Looking back in history is always fascinating with this cycle and this example is no exception. It was only in 1947 that NZ gained full independence by Parliament being granted the ability to amend the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852. The Labour government remained in power after the Second World War and the Prime Minister, Peter Fraser, played an important role in following years in the establishment of the United Nations. New Zealand was a founding member and had an instrumental role in establishing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I can see Jacinda Ardern again playing a similar role on the world stage in protecting citizens and trying to get countries together. As she said in her address to the UN last year: “Me too must become we too.” Libra!

What is also interesting now is that the Age Point is at what is known as a critical or turning point in the 7<sup>th</sup> house of relationships. In a country chart this refers to relationships with other countries. In the NZ chart, the age point is at 1°17' of Capricorn in May 2019. This means that the heart of the country (Sun) is triggered by the Age Point (which lasts around 12 months) by it being square to the Libra Sun. This is a chance for the leader (who happens to be a Leo!) to be seen. It is also a good time to re-examine what is really at the heart of NZ. When this

critical point is reached in a personal chart (age 39-40) it is often a time of relationship issues. What needs to be developed is to stay true to ourselves within a partnership and the wider world. From where I sit, it looks as though NZ is excelling at that! Jacinda is quite clear about Kiwi values (Libra Sun triggered) and wants to be seen as a role model—a leader for global development. One good thing about the attack is that it has brought the question, ‘who are we?’ to the fore. And it has brought people together—not only in NZ.

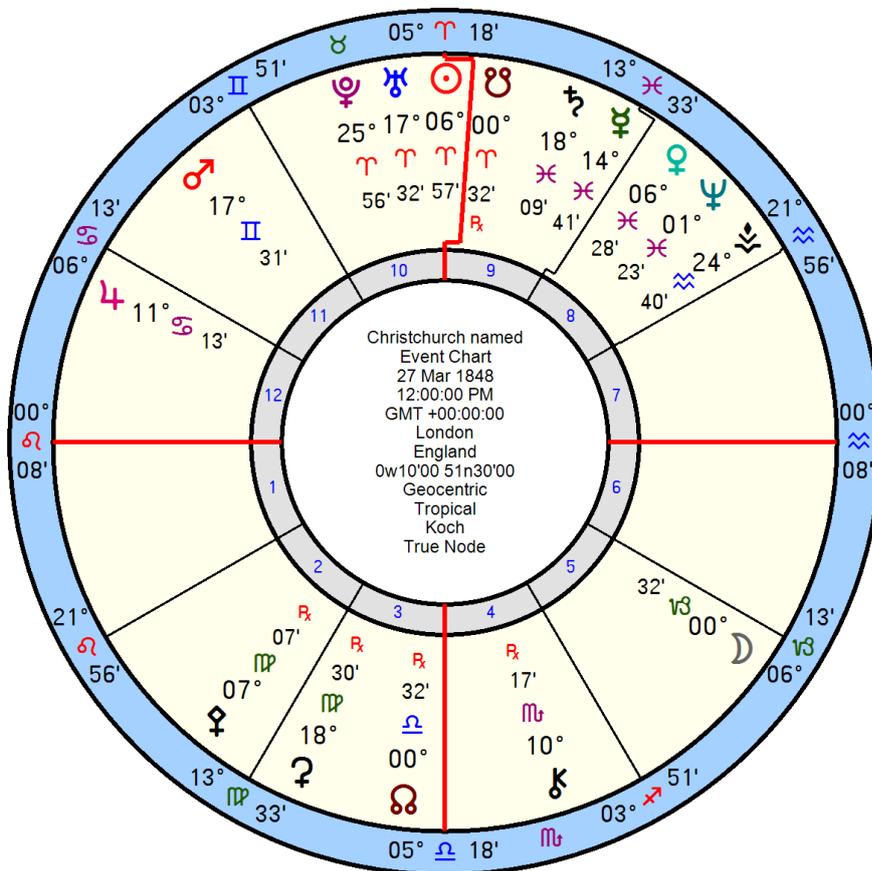


Chart 4: Christchurch named at a meeting of the Canterbury Association in London. Koch houses and midday. Depending on the time of the meeting, the Moon can be in Sagittarius or Capricorn.

### ***And so, to Christchurch***

There are two dates I have found which could be used for Christchurch. One is for the naming of the city and the other for when Christchurch was declared a city. I will just look at the naming chart here as I thought that chart ‘worked’ when I was looking at the earthquakes, but the other one has interesting transits too—I give data below.

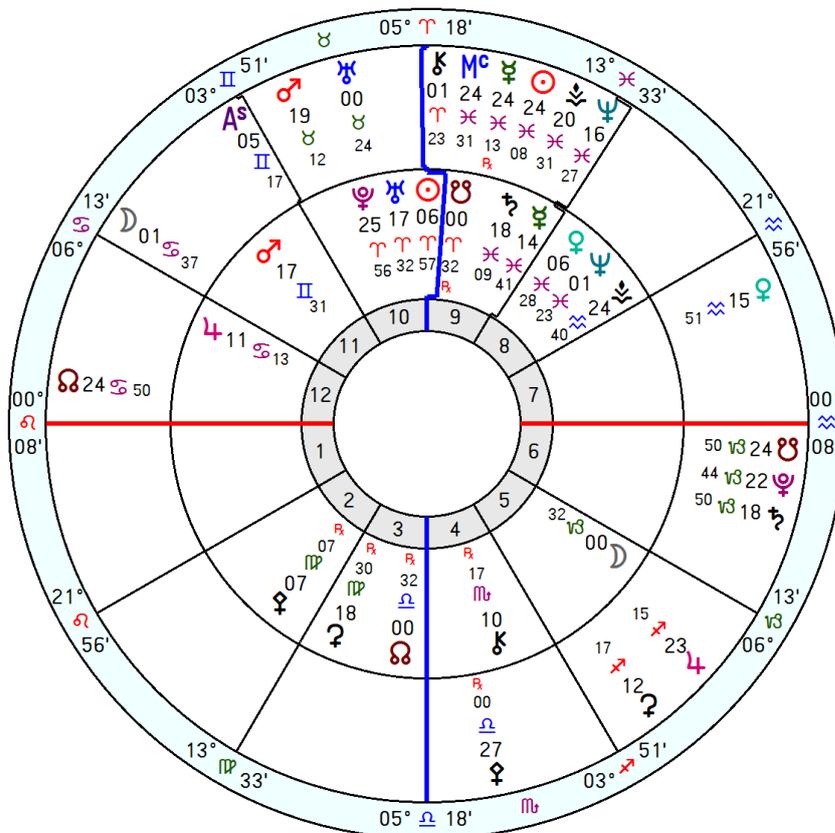
I will just look at transits here, but of course other techniques are worthy of study. However, it is important to examine the basic chart first, because transits can't be seen in isolation and they will wake up patterns in the basic chart. So, a very quick look...

The Aries sun shows a pioneering city, and, with the Sun square Jupiter, one that is entrepreneurial and optimistic. I certainly experienced this quality after the earthquakes. Christchurch was a town that grew quickly to become a city—the first in NZ. However, the negative side of Sun-Jupiter could result in fundamentalist views on religion, and I understand that Christchurch is one of the worst in NZ for this (if information online is correct). Jupiter can be very judgemental and the leadership of the city (Sun) can be prone to playing God. I don't know if this is the case—your comments welcome!

And when I lived there it was certainly true that one 'should go to the right school.' Shades of the English class system were alive and well, even though no one had a background that

warranted any of that! But if you were descended from families who travelled in 'the first four ships' you were somebody!

The other part of the chart that draws attention—a part that is very much at odds with the Sun, is all that Pisces energy, including a stationary Mercury. In my own experience it was not really the done thing to speak up and be heard. Values of quiet compassion seem to sum up this Pisces energy. But also, of accepting what others say and perhaps becoming a victim of this.



Charts 5: Inner chart: the naming of Christchurch – outer: shootings. These charts show how Christchurch is affected.

### Longer Transits

For this chart the active transits are also mostly Saturnian. He is in the middle of activating Mercury, Mars, Ceres and himself. So, Christchurch is being asked to seriously look at and develop communication, defence procedures, structures and the political system (Ceres, in my view). Ceres also covers 'green' issues and human and animal rights. Christchurch has been forced to look at structures—especially of buildings that need to be made earthquake proof. It seems that recycling and pioneering forms of energy are part of the plan too. Hopefully communication lines and political systems are being improved after what I hear have often been difficult issues, after all the devastation caused by the earthquakes. Saturn picking up Mars gives the discipline for the hard work needed to rebuild the city.

Incidentally, as a side note—it's good to see Christchurch has a woman as mayor—I hope she's good! With council elections this year and Saturn trining Ceres until after elections, it is a good time for older women (Ceres) to step up to the plate and create more gender balance in the council.



### ***So What About on the Day?***

The ones that caught my eye are Uranian—fitting for the huge shock it must have been. For a small city to experience such violence and tragedy, it must mean that everyone knows someone who has been affected by it. And even if loved ones were not hurt or killed, the shock to what was thought to be a safe place runs deep. I think Uranus must be somewhere near a close trine to the Moon. This chart is untimed so we don't know for sure, but it would fit. Uranus was

definitely picking up the nodes, suggesting a deeper pattern being woken up. The dynamic between 'for me or for us' (Aries-Libra) is relevant now it seems.

And lastly, the day after the shooting, Neptune exactly trined Ceres in the first of three passes. The last one is exact on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2020. This suggests a time of chaos and confusion in local politics, but also a time where compassion and help will flow freely, especially from women. In the myth, Ceres doesn't get everything she wants, she has to compromise. But she takes on Jupiter (greed) and Pluto (power) and gets her daughter back some of the time, which is good for everyone. She negotiates. This is an opportunity to create what Jacinda is advocating. Politics with a heart. With both masculine and feminine values. To let go of (Neptune) old views of women (particularly mature ones—Ceres) and govern together.

### ***Finally***

My heart goes out to New Zealand and particularly my hometown. You are showing the world a way of dealing with such sad events. May you all be a beacon of hope for the future. ☺

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### ***Data and Notes***

New Zealand declared a dominion: 26 September 1907, Wellington—either 0:00 or 11:00am.

Christchurch named: 27 March 1848, at a meeting of the Canterbury Association in London, no time.

Christchurch declared a city: 31 July 1856, by Royal Charter so assume London, no time. The oldest established city in New Zealand. Depending on time used Moon can be in Cancer or Leo.

Mosque shootings: 15 March 2019, 1:40pm, Christchurch.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fayeblake.nl/pisces/can-astrology-help-christchurch/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fayeblake.nl/pisces/daily-addictions-christchurch/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fayeblake.nl/pisces/right-logo-power-image/>

<sup>4</sup> More on this in my book—see [www.fayesbook.co.uk](http://www.fayesbook.co.uk) and in an article on my astrology site [www.asastrology.nl](http://www.asastrology.nl) under free stuff.

<sup>5</sup> <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/dominion-status-gazette-notice-1907>