

# Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote



**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Bible Readings:** [Psalm 63; Daniel 10:1 - 11:1; Revelation 13:1-10](#)  
(Each reading may be viewed at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

**Reflection:** ③

Wars, terrorism, pandemics ... so often world events seem out of control. We may be frightened, frustrated, insecure because of our inability to do anything to stop them. The last of the great visions given to Daniel addresses this problem. Again we find Daniel extremely concerned, praying and fasting when he received a revelation concerning a great war.

This was explained to him in a vision by someone in human form but whose description makes it very clear that he was more like an angel sent as a messenger. The message he brought was from God and is a response to Daniel who, "since the first day had set his mind to gain understanding and to humble himself before God and his words were heard." The great war referred to was being fought on the heavenly as well as an earthly level - for apparently the prince of the Persian kingdom referred to was a demon exercising influence over the Persian realm in the interests of Satan.

This problem was finally overcome by the archangel Michael, "The great prince who protects the people of God" (Daniel 12:1). This indicates that God's people have friends in heaven and against them no human force can ultimately prevail. Daniel's vision continues to offer us hope and reassurance in a world where evil so often seems to be in the ascendency, and in which bad things continue to happen. But the book of Daniel, behind all the symbolism, the numbers of years, all the imagery lies the simple truth that in the end God will win. So, to quote our Diocesan mantra, "Prayer not despair" is the correct response to any worries and concerns we might have.

**Prayer:**

Living God, give us faith to be sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see; to believe that you are, and that that you reward those who truly seek you: so may we please you, and receive what you have promised; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5.7