

Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote



Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021

Bible Readings: [Psalm 44; Jeremiah 5:1-19; John 5:19-29](#)
(Each reading may be viewed at www.biblegateway.com)

Reflection: ①

Psalm 44 deals with the age-old problem of suffering – specifically, why does God allow it? Why does he seem deaf to the anguish of his people? At the opening the writer looks back in time to the history of the people, recalling how God helped their ancestors by giving them the Promised Land, and he asserts their trust in him for the future. But then the tone changes and the writer starts to question what God has done. The people are in exile, they are suffering and a laughing stock with the other nations, and because they had trusted God to look after them in all circumstances they are now questioning their faith, unable to understand what is happening, unable to understand how God works. Had they grasped the fact that their suffering was as a result of their disobedience, perhaps their faith would not have been put to such a test, but verses 17 and 18 suggest that they couldn't accept this. Of course, from an Old Testament perspective, there was no satisfactory answer to the problem of suffering. It was very much black and white - disobedience leads to punishment. So God's love seem to be absent, or at least hidden from the writer of the psalm, as were his purposes.

In Lent we are preparing ourselves for the death and resurrection of Christ, the events which changed everything and which enable us to draw close to God, receive his forgiveness and experience his love. Let us use these weeks to examine our lives and ensure we remain in tune with God's will for us.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your unending love and that you are always ready to forgive us when we turn back to you. Help us to listen to you, to hear what you are saying to us and to walk in obedience to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has made this possible. Amen.

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