

# Saint Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote



**Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Bible Readings:** [Psalm 19; Deuteronomy 17:8-end; 1 Peter 1:13-end](#)  
(Each reading may be viewed at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

**Reflection:** ⑥

Peter opened his first letter by describing his readers as exiles, (strangers, aliens, foreigners) in the world in which they lived. One commentator explains, "The Romans had a policy of colonising conquered regions by moving people to new locations. The emperor Claudius is known to have colonised Asia Minor in this way, establishing formal Roman colonies in all the five areas mentioned in 1 Peter 1:1. The most famous Roman expulsion occurred during the reign of Claudius when he expelled the Jews from Rome, including Priscilla and Aquila (*cf*, Acts 18:2). Among these Jews were Christian converts, many would have found themselves in Asia Minor where they continued to proclaim the gospel and establish churches". There is a long tradition of Peter's being based in Rome long before his later death under Nero. Peter, then, would have had personal contact with the Christians who were then deported in this way, and this would explain why he later writes to them in Asia Minor.

The idea that Christians are strangers in the world is a key motif in this letter. And the problem for Peter's readers may have been as Psalm 137 verse 4 asks, "How do we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land". How could they maintain their identity as Christians, living in a different and probably antagonistic culture when things around them would have been hugely different to what they were used to?

1 Peter 1:13, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy'". And why? Because, "You were ransomed ... not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" Christ bought you back from your old life, by shedding his blood on the cross, so that your sins would be forgiven and through the forgiveness of your sins, your hope and faith would rest on God.

The response to that, says Peter, is to grow in love and holiness, by following the example of Jesus Christ. You have been given a new life, so live it, even though the circumstances in which you minister are not what you would like them to be. He will go on to develop these themes as we move through the letter.

**Prayer:**

May God himself, the God of peace, make us holy in every part, keep us sound in spirit, soul and body, without fault when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. He who calls us can be trusted: he will do it. Praise be to God. Amen.

*(Daphne Fraser - adapted)*

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