Weekly News

Political Violence

This week Helen Haines, the member for the Victorian seat of Indi, was viciously attacked outside her electoral office by a member of the public. Whilst we do not know all the details or the particular motivation behind the attack, it does seem quite clear that she was attacked because she is an elected representative.

I would like to write a little about the wider context to this event. First however we should note that Helen Haines is and should be in our prayers this week. We pray for her healing and recovery and for her family.

Every political party has quite rightly, unanimously condemned this type of political violence. On one level it is wonderful to live in a country where it seems self-evident that this kind of act is wrong, it is worth pausing and considering why we believe that to be the case and the wider implications.

The New Testament suggests that society works best when governments use their God given power that people may live peaceful and quiet lives in all holiness (1 Tim 2). Even in exile when living under foreign powers, the Jews in the Old Testament were called upon to pray for the city's peace and prosperity (Jer 29:7).

But what about when the government doesn't do what we want them to do? What if they are acting in ways that are opposed to God's will for our lives? Jesus' disciples certainly believed that about the Roman and Jewish authorities. Jesus was, however, adamant that His accession to the throne and solution to the problems of the world would not come through Him or His disciples perpetrating acts of violence.

His plan was in fact quite the opposite. He would submit Himself to political violence so that violence of all types might be done away with once and for all. The solution to political disagreements, to violence and the suffering caused by evil acts, is in the end Jesus himself.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV) Yours in Christ Tim.

ConfirmationClasses.

Confirmation Classes will be commencing next Sunday 1st November, at St John's Hartley 11am-12pm. All are welcome to come and hear what it's all about. We'll be looking at basic Christian truths over 5 or 6 weeks. Topics will include; 'Can we trust the Bible?' 'What is a Christian and how can we have eternal life?' What is Baptism and Confirmation and why would we bother?' 'Why is church important and how to belong?' 'What does a personal relationship with God look like?' No one is required to continue with Confirmation after the course unless they want to, so interested onlookers are welcome. More details from Ray Robinson 0423 161363.

Women's Gingerbread House Decorating.

Our women's gingerbread house decorating afternoon is happening again on Saturday Dec 5th at 2pm-4pm!

This Christmassy event is great to bring friends and neighbours along to, so please think and pray about who you might invite.

RSVP to Jodie (0425 343 475) with final numbers by Wed Nov 18.

Cost is $50 per gingerbread house, including all supplies. Gluten-free available on request.

New Bible Study Group in Mt Victoria.

Commencing 27th October at our home at 40 Sylvania street Mt Victoria.

Starting at 7pm-9pm.

If you are interested in attending this new study please RSVP to:

Scott 0411085396

scott.blackwell07@gmail.com

Deb 0416288941

dblackwell60@gmail.com

Notes

Bible Readings for St John's Hartley.
Sunday 25th October, 2026
1st Reading—Genesis 10
2nd Reading—Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon—Ross Nicholson -Workers in the Vineyard.

Next Sunday 1st November, 2026

Bible Reading
1st Reading— TBA
2nd Reading-TBA
Prayers
St Peter's :Pat Whitehead. St Aidan's :Scott Blackwell.
Night Church :Open Prayer.

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BLACKHEATH
St. Aidan's Blackheath, St. Peter's Mt Victoria,
St. John's Hartley, St. George's Mt Wilson
CENTRED ON CHRIST
Building up One Another, Reaching Out to the World

Sunday 25th October, 2026
SERVICES FOR TODAY
8.45am Mt Victoria—Morning Service
9.30amHartley – Morning Service
10.30am Blackheath – MorningService
6.30pm Blackheath—Night Church

First Reading—Nehemiah 13
Second Reading—Mark 11:27-33

Welcome

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