Gospel Lk 12:49-53
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
I have come not to give peace, but discord.
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

‘Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

Reflection
Has there been a time when you had to make a choice? It is hard to choose. Have you ever watched High School Musical? It is movie that most girls from the ages 8 -13 may have had the opportunity to watch. It is about belonging to groups and cliques and how it is important to hang in the popular group. For those of us who survived high school, we have lived to tell the tale. In Jesus’ time the important group you belonged to was your family. You were referred as the son, or daughter or brother. You were referred to as “David, son of the carpenter” etc. For Jesus to say that there would be a break in the family and the household would be divided was really a huge deal. You may have heard the expression “blood is thicker than water.” This was very true in Jesus time as the family is something you never turned your back on. It is something unusual for Jesus to say. After all he was the peacemaker, but in this gospel he is asking to see that the kingdom of God is so important it is even more important than our family. Of course we know that family is important he was trying to show us that the kingdom of God is the ultimate goal. That the love of the poor, the marginalised, the lepers, the ones that are not in the “in” crowd, they are the ones that Jesus used to hang around with. That when we help those in need, then that’s we can truly enter the kingdom of heaven.

When Summer approaches we are sure to hear about the bush fires. Years ago fire fighters tried to cut back the bush so it would not ignite but then it was discovered that the bush fires are important to help the bush to replenish itself. We need to burn off the underbrush and weeds that need to help the bush rejuvenate. We are the same; we need to burn off the useless things that make us less perfect. Jesus seeks to work in us to build up perfection within us. We need to use the power of the Holy Spirit to burn within us and help renew our heart and show this to others by our words and actions. Are we the tangled weeds that serve no purpose or do we want to be the strong tree that extends it branches up towards the sunlight? Do we choose to lead in God’s way? Are we part of God’s great family? Think about the choices you make? What values do we place on things? When we approach the table at the Eucharist we join something that supersedes any family or clique. The choice, Jesus reminds us, is ours.

Prayer
We pray for the times that we are tormented by conflict and division: that there is perseverance for desire for peace and goodwill. We pray for this community: that we will set the earth on fire with our commitment to the gospel. Amen.

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
**Dates to Remember!**

- **23rd August**
  - Diocesan Athletics at Blacktown
- **28th August**
  - Reconciliation Classes
  - Father's Day Stall
- **29th August**
  - Book Week Performance
  - “Space Jump”
- **30th August - 7:30am**
  - Father’s Day BBQ followed by a liturgy
  - Canteen Meal Deal
- **4th September**
  - Reconciliation Classes
- **6th September**
  - Stage 2 Touch at Kingsway St Mary’s
- **11th September**
  - Rite of First Reconciliation
- **14th September**
  - Bunning BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser
- **16th September**
  - Coffee n Chat
  - Naplan results home this week.
- **17th September**
  - Kindergarten 2014 Information Evening
- **19th September**
  - VOY grand-final
  - @ St Margaret Mary’s Merrylands
- **20th September**
  - Term 3 ends

**Whole School Photos**
Whole school photos along with captain and monitor photos are on display in the notice board outside the main entrance, to place an order please see the office staff.

**Catherine McAuley Westmead School Open Morning**
9.15 – 11am
Thursday 29th August 2013

**Enrolments for Year 7 2015**
Catherine McAuley is now accepting enrolments for Year 7 2015. Each year the demand for places at Catherine McAuley exceeds what is available. Join us on our upcoming school tour and avoid the crowds in Term 1 next year.

Our Open Morning is a great opportunity to tour around our school grounds, view our fantastic facilities and meet our students and teachers. You will have the opportunity to go into classrooms and see them in action. Both children and adults are most welcome.

Please contact School Reception on 9849 9100 if you would like to attend. Our school tours will leave at 9.15am and car parking will be available in the visitor’s car parking area via Gate 3 from 9am onwards. Ask for details when making your booking.

**Stepping Beyond: Support For Those Separated Or Divorced**
On the last Tuesday of each month Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?” Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

**Bereavement Support Group - Glenbrook**
Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry is commencing an eight session Bereavement Support Program in Glenbrook for men or women who have suffered the death of their spouse or long term partner. They will be held on every second Wednesday commencing 4th Sept from 10.30am – 12.30pm at. Each fortnight we will take a different aspect of grief and have some input reflection, sharing and discussion about how grief is affecting you and how you are working through it. You do not have to commit to the whole 8 Sessions when you come; you may just prefer to come to Sessions that particularly seem fitted to your need. The first topic is “The Physical Effects of Grief”. Details and Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.