

THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

November 15th – 21st The Christian vision

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away’. Every now and again someone spreads the rumour of the end of the world. So far it hasn’t taken place! We have something far more important than the end of the world to make our preoccupation, namely the wonderful presence of Christ with us and in us and around us. As followers of Jesus we have a great responsibility to the world we live in to show him powerfully in the way we live as his people in spite of all the scandals and all the upheaval in the Church today. We do this by the joy of God’s presence and love shining out through us. And we do it by the quality of life we develop in our homes and in our parish community, a quality that is characterised by kindness, gentleness, care, enthusiasm, peace, hope, forgiveness.

Morning Prayer, when together

Father of all that is good,
keep us faithful in serving you,
for to serve you is our lasting joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

During the day, when apart.

Lord God may the gift of our marriage
which we offer to you in gladness
increase our love for you
and bring us to eternal life.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Evening/Night Prayer together.

Father, may we grow in love
through the power of your Spirit living in us.
Give us an ever-greater sense of purpose in our love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Action for the week.

For your marriage: In what ways could you bring a real glow into the eyes and heart of your wife/husband this week?

For others: Do you know someone who has been bereaved within the past year? What could you do to reach out to that person this week?

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please help heal my husband's heart through enlightenment. He is in a heart mind struggle and he lost. Bring my family back please. A friend needs help and fast; he's drifting away.
2. Please save our marriage w/ my husband that our love, patience, understanding and trust will last forever...And we're praying also for a baby...Hope we can have one beautiful baby soon. Thank you so much and Godspeed!
3. Please pray for my marriage. Trust has been broken. Husband is a recovering addict and relapsed. Draining the bank account and my trust in him. Give us strength to do God's will.
4. Please pray for my daughter Sinead who is very sick at the moment after an operation. She needs all your prayers to recover full health.
5. Pray for Jim & Mary - thank you for your prayers.
6. Please pray for the restoration of my marriage and my family. Please help me pray for my husband's enlightenment, guidance and healing and that he may come to accept God in his life.
7. I ask for prayers for my marriage. Please pray that God will give us the graces we need to restore the love, trust and commitment that we need to fulfil this sacrament. Please pray for healing for us and reunite us. Amen.
8. Please pray for my marriage, my husband will give back his love to me and our child. He will remove his love and attention to his mistress. Hoping that our marriage life will be full of love and God's love.
9. Please pray for a husband and wife who are going through a marriage separation; pray for the hurt and pain to ease, communication to open up and healing to begin between them.
10. Prayer to St. Gerard for my husband Christopher who says his love for me is gone. He says it is not like when we first met. He feels he is an awful person and does not deserve to be loved. I pray to God every day to hold his heart in his hands.
11. My marriage is on the brink of separation and financial ruin because of a (serious) lack of honesty and commitment from my husband. We are in desperate need of God's miraculous grace to save us! I have five children who are affected by this. "St. Michael the Archangel, defend us...."
12. I kindly ask you to pray that God will grant me grace to see my wedding day. I also pray that God will pour out His blessing bountifully on my fiancé. I pray also for safe travel for my spouse.

13. Please pray for a Church of Scotland couple who have asked us to keep them in our hearts. They are in love but have distance and financial difficulties making it hard for them to plan a future. They sound like a very beautiful couple. Their email was lengthy so I am summarising it here.
14. Please pray for my daughter and her husband. They have two children she is going through a bad time, he tells her to leave as he doesn't love her any more. He doesn't want counselling. Please pray that things will change. I'm very worried about her. Thank you.
15. Please pray for the restoration of marriage for a couple I know.
16. Prayers for someone who has heart and chest trouble. stomach trouble and back problems
17. Healing prayers for someone with cancer please
18. Please Lord God put the right man in my life soon I'm so lonely, and help everyone in our three families not be lonely in Jesus name I pray. Amen
19. Please pray for our marriage. Pray that we can be more loving and considerate, understanding towards each other, and also that my husband realises that his family should be more important than work. Help us keep our home a happy home.
20. Can you, please, fervently pray For COMPLETE RECONCILIATION with my loved one That we MEET and TALK, THAT GOD FORM LINES OF GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US,KEEP US IN HIS CARE and HELP US TO WORK OUT ALL PROBLEM That my love DOES NOT GET INVOLVED IN ANY NEW RELATIONSHIP, but THAT WE START AGAIN, continue OUR WAY TOGETHER and officially get married! God gives promises, and I know He is FAITHFUL! I am sure when your prayers join mine we will surely receive a miracle. I am praying with Faith and please help me in this. Thank you very much. God bless you. I pray for you. Praise the Lord for He hears prayers and answers them.

New Publications: Veritas has published a new book by Fr. Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R. called **Do you want to be well again? – Thoughts and prayers at times of sickness.** It can be purchased from any Veritas bookshop. ISBN 1 85390 862 2 or from their website www.veritas.ie Another book by the same author together with Fr. Oliver Crilly, Paddy Curran and Frank Dolaghan, which has been published more recently, is called **Think Big, Act Small – Working at Collaborative Ministry Through Parish Pastoral Councils** ISBN 1 85390995 5

One of our major undertakings in Love is for Life Trust is working with couples preparing for marriage. It is a great joy and we have a very good residential programme for it. These weekends are held in Esker Retreat House, Athenry, Co. Galway. If you know of couples getting married in Ireland please encourage them to look up our website for dates for this year: www.loveisforlife.com