

## **THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.**

*Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.*

### **January 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Christ, the Church's Bridegroom**

“Jesus said: ‘Fill the jars with water’. And they filled them to the brim.” People often think of themselves as very ordinary and the place they live in as fairly insignificant. And yet it was for people like this in a place like that that Jesus worked one of his most famous miracles. One of the keys to this happening was that the servants obeyed Jesus command. In fact they overdid it and they ‘filled the water jars to the brim’. Jesus’ command to us is to love one another as he has loved us. If we follow his command great things will also happen in our lives and in the world we live in. But we also have to use the key and fill our love to the brim. We tend however to measure out our love. This week we are asked to practice our love more intensely in our homes and communities and let Jesus transform us.

#### **Morning Prayer, when together**

Father of heaven and earth, hear our prayers.  
Bless our love for one another  
and show us the way to peace in the world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### **During the day, when apart.**

Father, may we celebrate our sacrament of marriage  
with reverence and love.  
When we live our love to the full in marriage  
you continue the work of Christ's redemption.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

#### **Evening/Night Prayer together.**

Lord, you nourish us everyday with your love.  
Fill us with your Spirit  
and make us one in peace and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Questions for Action for the week.**

**For your marriage: In what special ways could you be romantic in your love this week? Plan these ways together.**

**For others: How could you take an active part in Church Unity week in your area? Church Unity week is January 18-25.**

[www.loveisforlife.com](http://www.loveisforlife.com)

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Pray for Jim & Mary - thank you for your prayers.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Please pray for the restoration of marriage for a couple I know.
5. Prayers for someone who has heart and chest trouble. stomach trouble and back problems
6. Healing prayers for someone with cancer please
7. 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
8. 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.
9. Please pray for Clodagh and Martin
10. Please pray that Ricky and Molly be reconciled in love as soon as possible - all glory to God
11. Please pray for C.H. who is suffering with a mental illness and finds it hard to cope sometimes. Thanks
12. My fiancé and I have been struggling with strife in our life, we both love each other we pray and worship together, it just seems that my bad is worse than hers even when she starts things by way of imagination, or jealousy accusations, I tend to be the one that spiritually puts it together and try to help her understand that the enemy attacks from different angles..last time this happened we prayed together and everything appeared to better immediately..Thanksgiving day she began to imagine things that did not occur..To this date I ask her for prayer as a couple she declines...thanks for your time.
13. Please pray to dear God/Jesus for me as I am very interested in finding my true soul mate as soon as possible. I have been single for a very very long time and to be honest it's driving me silly. Thank you

14. My husband plans to file for divorce. He is completing the paperwork. Please pray we will be reconciled. I hope for his heart to soften and that he will understand me and I will have the wisdom to be the kind of wife he wants. He is a good man and I truly love him. Thank you.
15. Please pray with me for my husband to come home to his family, and for our marriage of 20 years. Pray that my husband can love me again, and be more loving, considerate, and understanding towards me and his daughters, and also that my husband realises that his family should be more important to him than his relationship outside our marriage. Help me to get my family back together again. Please help heal my husband's heart through enlightenment. He's in a heart and mind struggle and he is lost. Bring my family back please. I need help fast; he's drifting away.  
Please help me. Please! Please!
16. I would be grateful if you could pray for me for job and finance. I have applied but I haven't got one. I am desperate. I need a job badly. Pray that God will remove all obstacles and open doors for me and I will get a job very soon. I really need a breakthrough. With gratitude.
17. Please include my husband and me in your prayers. He has lost faith in our marriage mostly due to me. Help him realise that I love him and will try to be happier, more grateful and content. Thank you.
18. Please pray for Paddy who is having a bone scan next week and is meeting the surgeon again. He has cancer in the prostate
19. Please pray for my husband that, God willing, we might be back together soon.
20. Please pray for my husband, we've been married for 10 years now but known each other for 14yrs, so we courted for 4yrs b4 marriage. my husband cheats on me by flirting on d internet with women and even on several occasion told me he was working and gone to sleep with women, i confronted him with evidence and he promised to change, but he is still doing it, please help me pray that God opens his spiritual eyes of understanding to know the implications of what he is doing, I've forgiven him, but I am only human, I don't know how long I can bear this, so please remember me in your prayers also, that God may continue to give me patience.

**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](http://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](http://www.loveisforlife.com)