

THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

October 18th – 24th Christian ambition

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Anyone who wants to be great among you must be the servant of all’. We often think that people are being fully accepted by us when we treat them like one of the family. And it is a lovely way to be. But the opposite is also very important to practice, namely that we would treat one another in our families the way we treat those who are visiting us. In this situation we take great care to be ready for them; we get all the best implements out for them; we prepare good food for them. And when they are gone we sometimes are relieved but more often than not we talk about the good things that we can see in them. This is also true within a parish community. We should take great care of one another, the way we would if there was a group of very special visitors coming to celebrate with us. That is how Christ wants us to be together.

Morning Prayer, when together

Almighty and ever-living God,
our source of power and inspiration,
give us strength and joy
in serving you as followers of Christ.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

During the day, when apart.

Lord God may the gift of our married love
which we offer to you
bring us your love and forgiveness
and give us freedom to serve you with our lives.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Evening/Night Prayer together.

God of love, may your Holy Spirit
help us to remain faithful
and teach us the way to eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Action for the week.

For your marriage: What do you want for yourselves as a couple this coming week? Share this with each other.

For others: What is your ambition for your parish at this time? What can you do to make this come to fruition?

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. 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.
2. 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...."
3. 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.
4. 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
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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!
8. 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.
9. 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.
- 10.** Pray for Jim & Mary - thank you for your prayers.
11. 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.
12. 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.

13. Please pray for Juan who lives in Peru. He has had several strokes and is now in a wheelchair. Please pray for better health for him and that in some way he will be able to take care of himself. His 3 sisters, who live in Sweden, are trying to get him to Sweden where he would get better care. Thank you.
14. 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.
15. Please pray for a family from Congo Kinshasa. Germaine, the mother has been living in Sweden since 2001. Her two children Annette 12 years old this week and Antoine are in a refugee camp in Uganda. Please pray that they will soon be allowed to be reunited with their mother in Sweden.
16. 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.
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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