

THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

February 21st – 27th Jesus is Lord

“Jesus was led by the spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there by the devil for forty days.” As we begin Lent, we are put in touch with the basic temptations of human life that can lead us to disaster. The first of these is pride. This does not mean thinking well of ourselves but rather thinking of ourselves as the only and most important thing in our lives. During this time we are invited to sort out our priorities once again. The second temptation is to power that makes us want to prove that we are better than others. The only power we should exercise as followers of Christ is the power of love through which we forget ourselves, die to ourselves so that others may have life. And Lent is also a time to change our ways of life that are not in accordance with God’s ways as the third temptation is presumption. God does respect our choices and rewards and punishes us accordingly.

Morning Prayer, when together

Father, through our observance of Lent
help us to understand the meaning
of your Son’s death and resurrection
and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

During the day, when apart.

Lord, make us worthy of your love.
May our efforts at loving each other in marriage
help to change our lives.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Evening/Night Prayer together.

Father, you increase our faith and hope and deepen our love.
Help us to live by your words
and to seek Christ as our way, our truth and our life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Action for the week.

For your marriage: What are the origins of your married love? Recall these this week and renew the romance of those days.

For others: How could you honour your parents, even those who have died, in a special way this week?

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 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.
8. Please pray for Clodagh and Martin
9. Please pray that Ricky and Molly be reconciled in love as soon as possible - all glory to God
10. Please pray for C.H. who is suffering with a mental illness and finds it hard to cope sometimes. Thanks
11. 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.
12. 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!
13. 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.
14. 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.
 15. Please pray for Paddy who is having a bone scan next week and is meeting the surgeon again. He has cancer in the prostate
 16. Please pray for my husband that, God willing, we might be back together soon.
 17. 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.
 18. FOR URGENT DIVINE INTERVENTION FOR COMPLETE RECONCILIATION with my loved one SHULE That SHULE DOES NOT GET INVOLVED INTO ANY NEW RELATIONSHIP, FORM LINES OF GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US, KEEP US IN
 19. Please pray for James that he will have health of mind and body and that he will meet his soul-mate soon.

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