

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

*Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.*

### **January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 6<sup>th</sup> The struggle of faith**

Jesus said: “I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country”. The word prophet conjures up the image of someone who foretells the future, a bit like a fortune-teller. No! A prophet is someone who gets to the deepest reality of human life and is able to proclaim that this deepest reality will come to the surface sooner or later and calls us to make it sooner. Generally people don’t like to hear about these deepest realities because they get used to the way things are. A good example of this is: the deepest reality of marriage is that it is a sacrament, a source of Christ’s presence in and salvation of the world we live in. Couples need to do a lot more to bring their love to that pitch. Every home is a Domestic Church, a sacred place. Every parish is the living Body of Christ. We have a lot of change to work on.

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

Lord, our God,  
help us to love you with all our hearts  
and to love all people as you love them.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

Lord, be pleased with the gift we make of our married love.  
Make our sacrament a source of our salvation  
and of the salvation of our world.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

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

Lord, you invigorate us  
by the love you show in our lives.  
Give the true faith continued growth  
throughout the world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**For your marriage: Is there anything you need forgiveness for from your wife/husband in the way you live out your married love? Do that this week.**

**For others: Is there anything you need forgiveness for from someone close to you?**

[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. 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
13. 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.
14. 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!

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Please pray for Paddy who is having a bone scan next week and is meeting the surgeon again. He has cancer in the prostate
18. Please pray for my husband that, God willing, we might be back together soon.
19. 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 the internet with women and even on several occasions 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.
20. 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
21. 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](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)