

THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

March 7th – 13th The Lord of compassion and love

God said to Moses: “Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground”. All religions designate certain places as holy places and rightly demand a certain level of reverence and respect. For ourselves as Catholics our sacred place is the church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. But the revelation of Christ is that the most sacred place of all is the company of another human being. He said that what we do to even the least person we do to him. Because of Christ, we are always standing on holy ground and our response always has to be one of reverence and respect. This has very far-reaching implications for us in the practice of our faith. The intimate relationship of husband and wife is a sacred place and calls for great reverence from all of us. And equally our homes and families and our faith community are places where we very often need a change of heart.

Morning Prayer, when together

Father, you have taught us to overcome our sins
by prayer, fasting and works of mercy.
When we are discouraged by our weakness,
give us confidence in your love
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

During the day, when apart.

Lord, by the grace of our sacrament of marriage
may we who so often need your forgiveness
be ready to forgive one another.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Evening/Night Prayer together.

Lord, through your love and mercy
may we receive your forgiveness always
and be brought together in unity and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Action for the week.

For your marriage: What are your ambitions for your marriage? Share those this week.

For others: Do you know anyone who is discouraged? What can you do for them this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Jim & Mary - thank you for your prayers.
2. 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.
3. Please pray for the restoration of marriage for a couple I know.
4. Prayers for someone who has heart and chest trouble. stomach trouble and back problems
5. Healing prayers for someone with cancer please
6. 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.
7. Please pray for Clodagh and Martin
8. Please pray that Ricky and Molly be reconciled in love as soon as possible - all glory to God
9. Please pray for C.H. who is suffering with a mental illness and finds it hard to cope sometimes. Thanks
10. 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.
11. 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!
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. Please pray for Paddy who is having a bone scan next week and is meeting the surgeon again. He has cancer in the prostate
15. Please pray for my husband that, God willing, we might be back together soon.
16. 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 ding, 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.
17. 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
18. Please pray for James that he will have health of mind and body and that he will meet his soul-mate soon.
19. Please pray for me and my families. I am praying to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (the fullness of the Holy Spirit) so that jealousy, envy, pride, negativity, fears, anger and all else will be easier to get out of my life.

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, Paddi 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