

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

*Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.*

### **January 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of Christ.**

John said to the crowd: 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire'. This week, as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan, we also remember and renew our own baptism into Christ in the Church. And the baptism that we have been promised is a baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Holy Spirit brings peace, joy, love etc. Is that how we live our faith or is it more with anxiety, fear, duty etc? Fire brings warmth, light, enthusiasm, hope. Is this how we present Christ to the world or is it more with coldness, lifelessness, joylessness? The challenge of this time is to change our ways and to let the world we live in know the power of Christ's presence among us by the enthusiasm of our lives of faith. This has to always begin in our homes and families and the community of faith we belong to.

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

Almighty, eternal God,  
when the Spirit descended upon Jesus  
at his baptism in the Jordan,  
you revealed him as your own beloved Son.  
Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit,  
faithful to our calling.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

Lord, we celebrate the revelation of Christ your Son.  
Accept the gift of our marriage  
so that we may become one with him.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

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

Lord, you feed us with the goodness of your creation  
May we hear your Son with faith  
and become your children in name and in fact.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**For your marriage: What 3 things would you like to see happen in your marriage relationship this year? Share those this week.**

**For others: What could you read this week that would be helpful for your faith?**

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## **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 my daughter and her husband. They have two children she is going through a bad time, he tells her to leave as he doesn't love her any more. He doesn't want counselling. Please pray that things will change. I'm very worried about her. Thank you.
5. Please pray for the restoration of marriage for a couple I know.
6. Prayers for someone who has heart and chest trouble. stomach trouble and back problems
7. Healing prayers for someone with cancer please
8. 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
9. 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.
10. Please pray for Clodagh and Martin
11. Please pray that Ricky and Molly be reconciled in love as soon as possible - all glory to God
12. Please pray for C.H. who is suffering with a mental illness and finds it hard to cope sometimes. Thanks
13. 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.

14. 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
15. 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.
16. 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!
17. 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.
18. 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.

**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)