

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

*Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.*

### **January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Christ, the Wisdom of God**

“He was in the world and the world did not know him.” It is always a source of sadness and distress when someone we love tells us that they no longer believe. There are very many reasons for this loss of faith and for the difficulty of believing in the first place. But then there are also many reasons for believing in Christ and following his way. The best thing we can do for those among us who have left us is to purify our own reasons for believing and to live our faith in a much more vibrant way. The heart of our Christian faith is that Christ is among us and his presence makes all things and all people sacred. We are always walking on holy ground, especially when we are with our loved ones or with other people. And this is true whether those others believe or not.

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

God of power and life,  
glory of all who believe in you,  
fill the world with your splendour  
and show the nations the light of your truth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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

Lord, make holy our love for one another  
through the coming of your Son,  
who shows us the way of truth  
and promises the life of your kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

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

Lord, hear our prayers.  
By our sacrament of marriage free us from sin  
and keep us faithful to your word.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**For your marriage: What were the beginnings of your love for each other?  
Take time to share on this during the week**

**For others: Do you know anyone for whom Christmas has been difficult? How  
could you reach out to them 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. Please pray for a Church of Scotland couple who have asked us to keep them in our hearts. They are in love but have distance and financial difficulties making it hard for them to plan a future. They sound like a very beautiful couple. Their email was lengthy so I am summarising it here.
6. 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.
7. Please pray for the restoration of marriage for a couple I know.
8. Prayers for someone who has heart and chest trouble. stomach trouble and back problems
9. Healing prayers for someone with cancer please
10. 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
11. 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.
12. Please pray for Clodagh and Martin
13. Please pray that Ricky and Molly be reconciled in love as soon as possible - all glory to God
14. Please pray for C.H. who is suffering with a mental illness and finds it hard to cope sometimes. Thanks

15. 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.
16. 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
17. 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.
18. 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!
19. 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,

***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)