

CHECKOUT LINE PRAYER ●

Catherine Stansfield

She scanned a bag of frozen peas
and recited, dutifully,
Hail Mary, full of grace
With another beep came the last roll
of paper towels on the barren shelf
the Lord is with thee.
She said the prayer with every
item all the way through.
They did not interrupt her to
show their rewards card.
She said: *You know, my*
daughter is a nurse, and
I'm working more hours than her!
They said: *Thank you both*
for your service.
She saluted them, smile.
They said: *Don't touch your face.*
She laughed and her mouth was
the comedy, but her eyes
held the horror.
She said: *Have a blessed day.*
and she took the next customer.
Hail Mary, full of grace—