

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022**

**By Revd John Ohen.**

### **“Stations by Simon Bailey – Places for Pilgrims to Pray, Cairns Publications”**

Matthew 6.6 NIV says – “When you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Equally Churches, Chapel, or Cathedrals are often seen as houses of prayer. There are many Stations or places where pilgrims can pray, either in a church or Cathedral according to Simon Bailey an Anglican parish priest in Yorkshire.

There are at least eighteen pray stations in any church, chapel, or cathedral. We can see a church as a piece of history, or we can pray in them. This is also a way of doing both at once. It is best to be quiet for a moment and say a prayer and It is best to be slow and quiet before prayer. The words to use will come from the Bible and therefore we should know our Bible. The Porch is not just used as an entrance but can be used as a point of prayer. However, in the past the porch was used for part of the service. There are many other parts of a church that we can use as a prayer station such as the door, the altar, the pulpit, Lectern, dark corners, or behind the curtain if the church has one.

We equally have at least seven prayer stations in a home and when we pray it is best to pray as the spirit leads us. We may find that we pray at home as much as we do in a church. The stations are chosen to help us watch and pray. Every home is different, and we may not have all the separate places, but we can adjust the stations to suit our needs.

Living room – This is the base of your life, and this is where we live our human existence, living, listing, crying, singing, thinking, planning and we can equally pray in our living room.

Kitchen – the place where all the food is prepared, with all the preparations, washing, cleaning, ironing, storing, again talking, thinking, a very busy place and it can be used as a place to wait and pray. Then the dining room, where we eat, also an ideal place to

pray. Our meals are not just substance, they are also human celebration, feast and joy, friendship, sharing and bonding. We also have bathrooms, stairs, and above all bedrooms, place of rest, sleep to recharge our batteries. Many bedrooms are place for love or dreams, and for some a place for sickness, final rest, or death. Still bedroom is an ideal place to pray in a house. We can reach our God from anywhere in our lives. So let us draw ourselves nearer and closer to our living God.

Amen.