

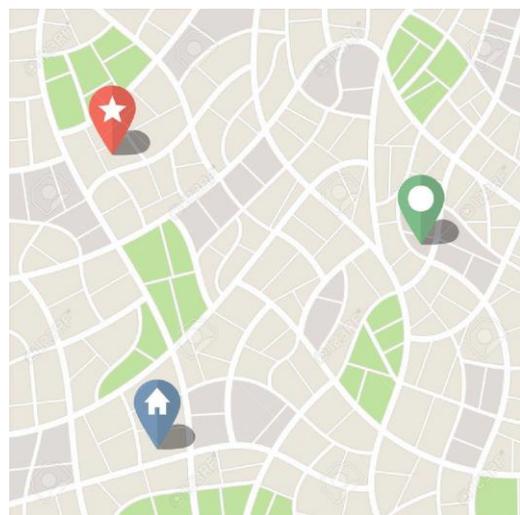


Here are **nine prayer stations** to use in any town, city or village, from 'Stations' by Simon Bailey.

They are designed to take you into **prayer in the place where you live** so that it becomes a **place of pilgrimage**.

Say this ancient Celtic prayer before you begin:
**'Bless to me O God, the earth beneath my feet;
Bless to me O God, the path whereon I go.'**

Quietly **offer to God the place where you live**, as you undertake this pilgrimage **be slow and quiet and take time to pray ...**



Pause on a road into your town/village

Notice – the travellers, shoppers, workers, families, people talking, waiting, walking dogs ...

Think – of the beginning of their journeys and the end ...

Question – where are you going?

Give thanks for the journey. **Pray** for all travellers and wayfarers.

Pause by a shop – a supermarket, a corner shop, a chemist, a florist, a discount ‘pound’ store ...

Notice – the goods, the presentation, the prices, the shoppers, the staff ...

Think – of the needs (not) supplied, the excess and waste, the things you can’t buy here ...

Question – what do you really want?

Give thanks for sustenance. **Pray** for more evenly shared resources, for a sense of proportion.

Pause at the Town Hall or a place representative of government like a job centre ...

Notice – the announcements, notices, leaflets, the officials and visitors ...

Think – of the ordering of human community, the complex systems and institutions, the good intentions, the facelessness and lack of humanity ...

Question – how do you turn your prayers into acts of justice?

Give thanks for an ordered society. **Pray** for the victims of the system.



Pause in a Park, a green place or by a tree ...

Notice – how nature fits into your community, does it blend or jar?
Do they grow together?

Think – of the place before human beings lived here (not so long ago ...)
of the countryside beyond your place, of the sky above and the air around ...

Question – what does nature give you?

Give thanks for the earth. **Pray** for greater friendship with the earth.

Pause by a School or any place of learning ...

Notice – the building, its place in the community ...

Think – of the learning that goes on and the learning that never stops/starts, the learning that happens elsewhere, the openness of children ...



Question – how lively is the child in you?

Give thanks for teachers who open hearts and minds.

Pray for the grace to go on learning.

Pause at a Church ...

Notice – its architecture and age, height and proportions, its place in the community now ...

Think – of all that has happened here: all the life events, all the people, all the longings, all the prayers, all the joy, all the best gifts given ...

Question – how does this place make you feel?

Give thanks for the worldwide church. **Pray** for the way forward.

Pause at a local Hospital or Health Centre ...

Notice – the people, carers and cared for, the variety of ailments, the dependent, the old ...

Think – of all of the physically and mentally ill people in your community, those frightened of the health system, the waiting, the medication, the pain ...



Question – where are your own wounds?

Give thanks for the measure of health you have.

Pray for the sick and the dying.

Pause in the gutter of the road ...

Notice – the litter, the drains ...

Think – of the hidden edges of your community – the criminals, prisoners, the victims ...

Question – who have you turned into a victim? Who have you helped to release?

Give thanks for carers. **Pray** for all victims.

Pause at a bus or railway station



Notice the people waiting – patient, expectant, restless or lost. Notice the destinations served ...

Think – of the different places linked together here, the lives that touch and overlap, journeys ended and begun ...

Question – what are you waiting for?

Give thanks for journeys done. **Pray** for the way ahead.