

## The origin of the Stations of the Cross

From the very earliest times Christians have traced and walked in the footsteps of the Lord from Pontius Pilate's palace to Calvary, the place of the Crucifixion. The crusaders are said to have spread this devotion through Europe and so for those who were unable to make the journey to Jerusalem, the Way of the Cross was set up in Cathedrals and churches. Now we will find Stations of the Cross in parish churches all over the world. Few will know that there were 36 stations at the beginning until the 16<sup>th</sup> century when 14 Stations were chosen and approved by the Church. Since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s an additional Station (The Resurrection of Jesus) may be added.