

## St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi, lover of all creation, champion of justice, patron saint of animals and the environment, founded the Franciscan Order. His feast day is October 4. He was born in 1181 or 1182 and died in 1226.

### Programme ideas

1] Bring your pets to the meeting or to your parish church on or around 4<sup>th</sup> October and have a Pet blessing ceremony.

#### **For all animals:**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
maker of all living creatures.  
On the fifth and sixth days of creation,  
you called forth fish in the sea,  
birds in the air and animals on the land.  
You inspired St. Francis to call all animals  
his brothers and sisters.  
We ask you to bless this animal.  
By the power of your love,  
enable it to live according to your plan.  
May we always praise you  
for all your beauty in creation.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

#### **For a sick animal:**

Heavenly Father,  
you created all things for your glory  
and made us stewards of this creature.  
If it is your will, restore it to health and strength.  
Blessed are you, Lord God,  
and holy is your name for ever and ever. Amen.

- 2] Visit an animal/pet sanctuary, and RSPCA centre or similar.
- 3] Bring in a photo of your pet(s) and share with others why you love your pet.
- 4] As a group adopt and sponsor an animal in need.
- 5] Draw a picture of your pet or colour in a picture of a similar pet.
- 6] Make a nesting box or bird table.