

Blessing of the Animals at ACU

AUSTRALIAN Catholic University (ACU) will host the annual 'Blessing of the Animals' for students, staff and members of the public at its Brisbane Campus on Thursday 4 October.

All creatures "great and small" and their humans are invited to receive a special blessing on the day, which is offered in commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Queensland Police's Mounted Unit will be in attendance with the Unit's horses and officers which have been a highlight of the day for the past three years. Animal visitors might include a poddy lamb, chooks, hamsters, dogs and even a llama.

In the Christian tradition Saint Francis is remembered for his love for animals and the natural world, as well as his generosity towards the poor. Saint Francis is regarded as one of the patrons of the University.

Blessing of the Animals is a day of celebration and will feature live music, a pancake cook-off, and a contemporary drama presentation performed by students and staff from the School of Arts.

The event is organised by Brisbane Campus Chaplain Father Harry Chan who said the day was an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate their pets.

"The 'Blessing of Animals' is a Franciscan tradition – St Francis was a lover of animals and treated all creatures as his brothers and sisters," Father Harry said.

"Animals are our companions on Earth, be they house pets, domesticated livestock or wild creatures. We receive much from them. The day gives us an opportunity to give something back to them."

Blessing of the Animals will take place on Thursday 4 October from 10am-2pm at the ACU Brisbane Campus.

Members of the public are invited to bring their pets and animals to receive a special blessing.

Event details

Event: Blessing of the Animals

Venue: Australian Catholic University, 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo

Date: Thursday 4 October from 10am-2pm

Cost: Free event and open to all members of the public and their pets

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