

CHURCH OF ST. COLUMBA
PARISH OF IONA ROAD



Blessing *of the* **Animals**

St Columba's, Iona Rd, Glasnevin, D09 XY46

A community service of celebration and
blessing for our pets on the Feast of St.
Francis of Assisi – Patron Saint of Animals

All pets and owners of all religious backgrounds are welcome !

A service of blessing for all pets and working animals

WELCOME!

We welcome you to St Columba's Church in Iona Road. We gather to thank God for his wonderful creation through the gift of the animals we care for and love.

Please do enjoy the service and feel free to join in the congregational parts of the service printed in bold print.

Our animal friends who are with us this afternoon may not be used to attending church services, and indeed for some of them, it might be a rather strange experience!

Please feel free to heed their meows and woofs and perhaps the occasional cheep or chirp and come in and out of the church as you need to during the service.

There is no need to feel embarrassed about your pet's behaviour and should you need anything during the service please feel free to ask the church stewards at the door for help!

Following the service which will last approximately 20 mins there will be an opportunity (weather permitting) to have your pet blessed by Fr. Joe and to take some photographs so please feel free to stay and chat! We will also have some tea and biscuits afterwards

Water bowls are situated outside on the front steps

Welcome [Fr. Joe]

Sit

We welcome you all to the Parish of Iona Road to give thanks for the great gift of the animals in our lives. Today we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St Francis loved all of God's creatures and we remember this as we welcome you and the animals gathered around us to St. Columba's church today. As we are called to care for all creation, Lord, help us to follow St. Francis's example of treating every living thing with kindness.

O Lord, give us humility to thank you for the creation of all Animals. Enlarge our respect for these your creatures, of whom we are the guardians, and give us a sense of responsibility towards all your creation. **Amen.**

The cantor will now lead us in our first hymn and all are invited to join in the singing

HYMN – All Things Bright and Beautiful (all sing)

All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one;
He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well.

Prayers-of Reflection Fr Joe

Lord God, through your Word you created all that is on earth.

The whales and all that move in the water,
the birds of the air, and the beasts of the wild,
call all creation to praise and glorify you.

**O Lord, our creator,
touch our lips and let us speak for you.**

You made the earth a home for all creatures,
and made it holy by your presence among us,
teaching us to learn about your Kingdom
by loving and caring for the creatures of the earth.

**Come Lord Jesus, among us,
and reveal your Kingdom in our midst.**

In you, all creatures find life,
and you give us water from the earth to sustain us.
You give your creatures eyes to see and ears to hear
Help us protect the earth and keep it safe for all living
beings

**Come Holy Spirit, and kindle in us the fire of your
love,
come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reading [Clodagh]

A reading from the Book Genesis

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of
living
creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the
dome of
the sky. So God created every living creature that
moves,
the waters, the wild animals and winged birds of every
kind.
And God saw that it was good and blessed them.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Prayers remain seated. Individual speakers come forward

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord:

Prayer 1 [Judith]

For all animals,
their habitats and environment,
their health and well-being,
that they may continue
to teach us of your gentleness, compassion and grace:

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Prayer 2 [Derek]

For our pets, owned by children and adults, single
people and families of all kinds
We thank you for the fun, company and companionship
of our animals

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Prayer 3 [Seamus]

For the care and respect of all animals:
For zoos and wildlife parks
and all who work on conservation projects
both here in Ireland, and overseas:
Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Prayer 4 [Martin]

For vets-and all who treat sick animals
and for families who are caring for sick animals in their
homes:

For our animal walkers, animal minders and
behaviourists.

Help us to give our pets a healthy and fun life

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Prayer 5 [Clare]

For all working animals, guide-dogs, therapy dogs,
assistance and companion animals for the sick and
those in need . Thank you for the physical and mental
supports animals provide. Also bless all trainers and
host families.

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

Prayer 7 [Brendan]

For animal lovers, and all our families
where the death of a much-loved family pet and
companion
causes so much heartache and sadness:

Lord hear us

Lord Graciously Hear Us

[Fr. Joe]

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us and lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil**

Amen.

Second hymn and all are invited to join in the singing

**HYMN (all sing) - to the tune of O Little Child of
Bethlehem**

O God ,your creatures fill the earth
with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth
and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim;
your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn
to offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in-
they're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins,
they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace
these creatures in our care.

May we show kindness, love and grace
to all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land;
they fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command
to love them tenderly.

We're called to have dominion here-
to care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear,
we offer you our praise.

Fr. Joe

A Prayer for animals

Blessed are you Lord God, in your wisdom you created
the universe and bless us with all living creatures. We
say the following prayer together:

All

**Lord, I thank you for entrusting me with my pet,
who brings me so much happiness
and whose presence
helps me to get through sad and difficult times.
Please bless my pet and make me a responsible
minder.**

**May we continue to give each other much joy.
Grant this, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing of the People

The Lord bless you and watch over you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace, be good stewards of creation as St. Francis of Assisi has taught us.

Live in harmony with all living things. Thanks be to God!

Final Hymn

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art