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Blessings for horses and pets world-wide offered again

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The traditional animal blessing at Austria's Pfarre Linz - St. Peter church will take place on October 3 this year, but don't fear if you can't take your pet in person.



Haflinger stallion Willie went to the blessing last year, along with many cats, dogs, and other pets.



The church in Linz is again offering to bless pets and animals, including horses, dogs, and cats, from afar on October 3, the day before World Animal Day.

World Animal Day marks the commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

For many years pets living within the boundaries of the Parish have been blessed during Holy Mass on the Sunday nearest World Animal Day.

All pets brought to the divine service by their owners are individually blessed.

But a few years ago the parish started offering world-wide participation, following requests from animal owners who were unable to make

the trip for various reasons.

"We will post the pictures on a wall at our animal blessing and the pictured pets will be blessed as part of our ceremony," said pastor Franz Zeiger.

"They will take part in our animal blessing from afar as we ask for God's blessing on the intercession of St. Francis. A world-wide participation is therefore possible! Prayer and blessing know no boundaries and encompass the whole world!" he said.

Last year more than 700 emails with about a thousand pictures of pets from all over the world were received.

Owners can send by email a picture with the name on it of their animal - be it a dog, cat, horse, or any other pet - to the parish for the animal blessing.

"As in the past, participation is of course completely without cost," pastor Zeiger said.

Email pictures to pfarre.linz.stpeter@dioezese-linz.at

[Pictures from the 2009 Animal Blessing at Linz](#)

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Pfarre Linz - St. Peter pastor Franz Zeiger blesses a dog on World Animal Day last year.



Willie at last year's blessing.