

# Religious Studies Topic of the Month

## October 2025

### Can everyone pray together?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected a current news article, which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



### Disclaimer:

This topic relates to a video article, produced by BBC News\* entitled "Watch: Pets around the world blessed for Feast of Saint Francis."

### Introduction

This article refers to the global tradition of blessing pets and livestock during the Feast of Saint Francis.

**(Click here to access the article)**

### Discussion prompts

- What does the Feast of Saint Francis reveal about the role of saints in religious life?
- In what ways can religious festivals promote community cohesion?
- How might the blessing of animals challenge anthropocentric views in theology?
- What ethical principles are demonstrated through the care shown to animals in religious contexts?
- Why is Saint Francis considered a model for ecological responsibility?

### Links to topics featured in our specifications:

- **GCSE:**
  - Christian responses to issues in the natural world
- **A-Level:**
  - Environmental issues
  - The interpretation and application of ahimsa for a Buddhist in the modern world