

13th December - Lucy-Star-nosed mole



Saint Lucy was a wealthy young women born in Ancient Rome at a time when Christians were being persecuted. When she became a Christian Lucy persuaded her widowed mother to give away a lot of their wealth. She also decided that she wanted to concentrate on doing God's work and didn't want the distraction of marriage and a family. However, her faith got her into trouble with the Pagan authorities. Before being executed Lucy was cruelly treated and even blinded, but she still refused to give up on her Christian faith.

The star-nosed mole is completely blind, but has other super-sharp senses to compensate for its lack of vision. It can detect and catch food in under 300 milliseconds! Once this mole has its dinner, it doesn't hang around and is the probably the world's fastest eater, taking as little as 120 milliseconds to spot and guzzle a titbit. Its special, star-nose has lots of tiny sensory detectors known as 'Eimer's organs' allowing the mole to identify food without needing eyes. It also has the neat trick of being able to smell underwater using air-bubbles which it blows in and out.