



**St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish**  
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE  
St Louis de Montfort's Church

# Welcome Booklet



**St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish**  
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE



**St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish**  
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE  
St Brigid's Church

# Parish Vision Statement

We are a faith community who gather to praise and worship God.

We express Christ's presence among us  
by reaching out to those in need  
with Christ's message of love and forgiveness  
and the promise of justice and hope for all.



**St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish**  
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

**St Brigid's Mordialloc and St Louis de Montfort's Aspendale**

## **PARISH**

**Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot**

**Deacon: Deacon Brian Muling**

### **PARISH HOUSE**

520 MAIN ST., MORDIALLOC PH: 9580 1018

### **PARISH OFFICE**

37 DOLPHIN ST., ASPENDALE PH: 9580 7981

Email: [mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au](mailto:mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale](http://www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale)

Pastoral Associate: Bernadette Carr

Parish Secretary: Susan Dornom (Mon, Thurs & Fri)  
Ann Fitzgerald (Tues & Wed)

St Louis de Montfort's School,  
37 Dolphin St., Aspendale PH: 9580 5169

St Brigid's School,  
129 Albert St., Mordialloc PH: 9580 4518

# Baptism Bookings

Families living in our Parish who wish to have a child baptised in our Parish need to contact the **Parish Office on 9580 7981**. *(If you live outside the Parish we recommend that you contact the Parish you are currently living in as this is the Parish your child will grow up and become involved in)*

Baptisms are celebrated in our Parish on set dates each month in either a Baptismal Service or during a Parish Mass.

Our parish Baptismal Programme is comprised of: -

- 1. Adult Preparation Meeting**
- 2. Welcoming Eucharist (2 weeks prior to Baptism)**
- 3. Sacrament of Baptism**

The Parish charges an administration fee of \$20 which covers the cost of the Baptism Preparation. Additional costs include the purchase of a Baptismal Candle and Stole. Our Parish is able to provide these at a very reasonable price if you wish. Families are also encouraged to make a thanksgiving donation to Fr Andrew on the day of your baptism.

## **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

Adults wishing to become Catholic can do so through our RCIA Program which starts each year in September and ends with Baptisms at Easter the following year. For more information contact the **Parish Office on 9580 7981**

## **Catechist Program**

Our Parish Catechist Program offers Religious Instruction Classes for children not attending Catholic Schools. The classes teach the children about our Faith and help prepare them for the Sacraments.

Classes are held on Tuesday afternoons from 4pm to 5pm at St Louis de Montfort's Church. They run from February to November.

For more information contact the **Parish Office on 9580 7981**

## **Weddings**

Both St Brigid's and St Louis de Montfort's Churches are available for wedding ceremonies.

For more information contact **Fr Andrew on 9580 1018**

or the **Parish Office on 9580 7981**

*More information on each of the sacraments are listed on handouts available in church foyer and in our parish website [www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale](http://www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale)*

# MASS TIMES

## WEEKENDS:

### **Saturday**

6pm St Louis', Aspendale

### **Sunday**

8.00am St Brigid's, Mordialloc

9.30am St Louis', Aspendale

11am St Brigid's, Mordialloc

## WEEKDAYS:

Mon 9.15am Communion Service at St Louis',

Tues 9.15am St Louis', Aspendale

Wed 10.00am St Brigid's Mordialloc

Thu 9.15am St Louis', Aspendale

Fri 11.30am St Brigid's, Mordialloc

## Rosary:

Rosary is prayed prior to weekday Masses

## Reconciliation:

Fri 12noon St Brigid's, Mordialloc

Sat 5.30pm St Louis', Aspendale

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon 9.45am – 10.30am St Louis'

Fri 10.30am -11.15am St Brigid's

## **Our Parish Logo:**

The St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish logo consists of four significant elements that assist in identifying the newly merged parish.

The **green circle** represents 'care of our common home', displaying a stylised cross within the negative space; the **blue wave** symbolises the bayside location, with the **overlapping shades** signifying the merging of the Parishes of St Louis de Montfort's, Aspendale and St Brigid's, Mordialloc. Finally, inclusion of the **Southern Cross** acknowledges St Mary of the Cross as the first Australian saint.

The new motto '**Embodying Christ's Love**', emanates from the parish vision statement. The verb 'Embodying' is seen as an action word for a vibrant parish community impelled by Christ's love in all that they do.

*Our Parish logo was designed by the Fraynetwork Agency who are part of the wider Mercy family.*



**St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish**

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

# **HISTORY OF THE PARISH**

Aspendale and Mordialloc Parishes  
were originally part of  
the Parish of St Patrick's, Mentone.  
They became the Parish of St Brigid's, Mordialloc in 1949.  
Then in 1970 Aspendale  
became the Parish of St Louis de Montfort's, Aspendale.

St Brigid's & St Louis became a combined Parish in 1999.  
As partnered Parishes while they still have their own identities  
they share a Parish Priest  
and so they also share many of their services and groups.

Our two Parishes amalgamated in 2019  
and became the Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc & Aspendale.

The Parish Priest lives  
in the Presbytery (next to St Brigid's Church)  
at 520 Main St, Mordialloc.

The Parish Office is part of  
the Parish & School Complex at St Louis de Montfort's,  
37 Dolphin St, Aspendale.

## **PARISH PRIESTS:**

### **St Brigid's Parish**

1949-1986 Fr Jim English

1987 – 1999 Fr Joe Browne

### **St Louis de Montfort's Parish**

1970-1973 Fr Gerry Briglia

1974-1979 Fr Eames

1980-1990 Fr John Woodcock

1990 Fr Pat Purcell (administrator)

1990-1991 Fr Peter Waters (administrator)

1992-1995 Fr Bill Gill

1996- 1999 Mr Terry Curtin (Pastoral Leader)

### **St Louis de Montfort's & St Brigid's Parish**

2000-2010 Fr Michael Quigley

2011-2018 Fr Andrew Jekot

### **St Mary of the Cross Parish**

2019 - Fr Andrew Jekot

# Our Parish Schools

## St Brigid's Primary School

*was established in 1911*

**129 Albert St,  
Mordialloc**

Telephone: **9580 4518**

Website:  
**[www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au)**

Principal: **Michael Russo**

*Students enrolled in 2019 = 247*



## St Louis de Montfort's Primary School

*was established in 1964*

**37 Dolphin St,  
Aspendale**

Telephone: **9580 5169**

Website:  
**[www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au)**

Principal: **Tom Lindeman**

*Students enrolled in 2019 = 659*



St Louis de Montfort's  
Catholic Primary School, Aspendale  
*Our Children, Our Faith, Our Future!*



# PARISH DIRECTORY.

<b>PARISH PRIEST</b>		Fr Andrew Jekot	<b>9580 1018</b>
Assistant		Deacon Brian Muling	
Email address		<a href="mailto:mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au">mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au</a>	
Website		<a href="http://www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale">www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale</a>	
<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	Secretary:	Susan Dornom ( <i>Mon, Thu, Fri</i> )	<b>9580 7981</b>
		Ann Fitzgerald ( <i>Tues, Wed</i> )	
Email address		<a href="mailto:mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au">mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au</a>	
Pastoral Associate		Bernadette Carr	9580 7981
Parish Magazine/Webmaster/Pastoral Plan		Berna Wake	<a href="mailto:berna.wake@cam.org.au">berna.wake@cam.org.au</a>
Baptism Bookings		Parish Office	9580 7981
Catechist program		Elizabeth Newington	9512 1155
RCIA Process		Parish Office	9580 7981
Communion for the Sick		Parish Office	9580 7981
Bereavement Group		Marie Medlicott	9772 6126
Altar Servers		Susan Dornom	9580 7981
<u>St. Vincent de Paul Society</u>			
Aspendale: ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 7pm</i> )		Aspendale: Anne Miller	9580 4201
Mordialloc: ( <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays 7pm</i> )		Mordialloc: Robyn Worsnop	0412 814 592
Prayer Group ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 7.30pm</i> )		Felice Cortese	9580 3450
Children's Liturgy		Kathie Martin	9580 0849
Inter-Church Council Representative		Sr Reba Woodwiss	9580 0151
Young Adults Group		Kristian Tangso	0490 357 852
St. Mary of the Cross Men's Group		Michael Callaghan	9580 1922
		Tony Allday	<a href="mailto:ajallday@optusnet.com.au">ajallday@optusnet.com.au</a>
St Louis' Tennis Club ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Wed - 7.30pm</i> )		Anthony Barnhoorn	9587 8689
St Louis' Tennis Coach		Trish Angliss	0421 604 849
<b>ST LOUIS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>		<b>Tom Lindeman</b>	<b>9580 5169</b>
School web site		<a href="http://www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au">www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au</a>	
School Office			<b>9580 5169</b>
<b>ST BRIGID'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>		<b>Michael Russo</b>	<b>9580 4518</b>
School web site		<a href="http://www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au">www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au</a>	
School Office			<b>9580 4518</b>
<b>PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:</b>			
Fr Andrew Jekot	9580 1018	Deacon Brian Muling	9580 1018
Bernadette Carr	9580 7981		
Michael Russo	9580 4518	Tom Lindeman	9580 5169
Odette Budge	0402 053 454	Ann Brennan	9580 3810
Vanessa Fernandes	9772 4964	Judy Dickinson	9769 0986
Debra O'Shannessy	0411 247 415	Debbie Poynton	9580 7121
Lindy Wilson	0408 952 004	Gerard Wagstaff	9773 3319
Peter Wilson	0419 952 020	Berna Wake	0487765631

# Parish Groups

## Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council's role is one of shared responsibility for the ongoing life and development of the parish community. Working together with parishioners to develop and support the Parish community in their efforts to live as followers of Christ.

### **The Parish Pastoral Council members are:**

Fr Andrew Jekot (Parish Priest)  
Michael Russo (St Brigid's Principal)  
Bernadette Carr (Pastoral Associate)

Deacon Brian Muling  
Tom Lindeman (St Louis' Principal)

### **Parish Representatives:**

#### **St Brigid's**

Odette Budge  
Vanessa Fernandes  
Debra O'Shannessy  
Lindy Wilson  
Peter Wilson

#### **St Louis de Montfort's**

Ann Brennan  
Judy Dickinson  
Debbie Poynton  
Gerard Wagstaff  
Berna Wake

Each of the Parish representatives on the Parish Pastoral Council serves a 3 year term.

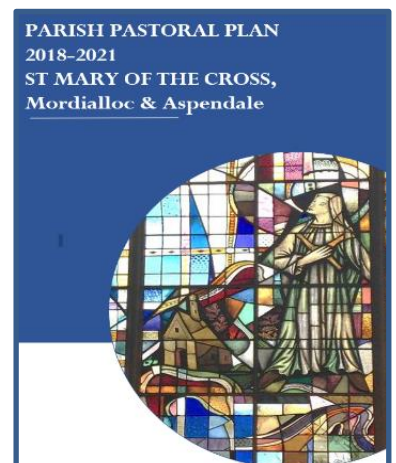
## Parish Pastoral Plan 2018-2021

### Your opportunity to get involved

In June 2018 we introduced our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2018-2021. Parish Pastoral Planning is a process of evaluation and forward thinking to help the community stay up to date with the changing circumstances of life and faith. It is essential for the ongoing life and vitality of the church. Our Parish Pastoral Plan contains five priority areas of importance:

- Support our Parish Community
- Connect with Youth
- Treasure our Seniors
- Strengthen Parish groups
- Revitalize Spirituality, Liturgy and Evangelisation

If you would like to know more and get involved in one or more of the Parish Plan actions, please pick up a copy in the church foyer or download on our Parish website at [www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale](http://www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale).



*“Never see a need without doing something about it.”*

*St Mary of The Cross MacKillop*



# Parish Finance Team

Parish Finance Committee is appointed by Fr Andrew. This Committee's role is to assist Fr Andrew with financial matters of the Parish such as the Parish Thanksgiving Program, funding for building improvements, projects, Parish staff etc.

The Committee consists of **Fr Andrew,**

**Michael Barker** (Parish Accountant)

and appointed representatives from each Parish:

**Bill Atherton**

**Gerard Burke**

**Niko Tovia**

**Dermot Reiter**

**Trevor Tracy**

# Stewardship Program

All parishioners are invited to be involved in the Parish in 3 ways:

**GOING - to Mass** (*Prayer and attendance at Mass and other celebrations in the Parish are an important part of our commitment to our Faith*)

**GROWING – through service** (*Getting involved in the many groups and activities in the Parish*)

**GIVING - with love** (*The Parish requires a regular income in order to cover its costs and maintain services to all our parishioners.*) Everyone is encouraged to pledge a financial commitment to the support of the Parish through our Stewardship Program. Donations can be made in cash via Thanksgiving Envelopes at Mass or Credit Card or Direct Debit payments. Pledge cards are available from the Church Foyer or Parish Office 9580 7981

# Child Safety Team

Our Parish is committed to the safety of the children within our care and will do whatever is within our power to protect them.

The Child Safety Team consists of **Fr Andrew, Carmel Barker, Ann Brennan, Judy Dickinson, Susan Dornom, Deb Poynton & Robyn Worsnop.**

We have a child safety policy and all volunteers in our Parish Ministries are required to have a **current Working with Children Check.**

The Child Safety Policy can be found on the parish website

[www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale](http://www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale)



# St Vincent de Paul Society:

St Vincent de Paul's **ASPENDALE** Conference meets:

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7pm**

in **St Louis Parish Meeting Room**

and **MORDIALLOC** Conference meets on:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** of month at **7pm**

in **Upstairs Meeting Room** at **St Brigid's Church**



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

New members are always welcome.

Would you like to help with conference work in the Parish, on the Soup Van, or at one of the local Vinnies Centres (Chelsea Heights or Mentone)?

For more information contact

Aspendale's St Vincent de Paul President: **Anne Miller**

**9580 4201**

Mordialloc's St Vincent de Paul President: **Robyn Worsnop**

**0412 814 592**

## Vinnies Centres:

The two nearest Vinnies Centres are:

**CHELSEA HEIGHTS VINNIES**, 9773 4047

cnr Hartwood Dr & Wells Rd, Chelsea Heights

**MENTONE VINNIES**, 9585 6211

34 Nepean Hwy, Mentone (*opposite Super Amart*)



Everything you buy or donate at a Vinnies Shop helps support St Vincent de Paul Society's programs to help those less fortunate and in-need.

Donations of good quality second hand (*or new*) clothing, furniture, books, bric-a-brac, blankets, toys etc are welcome. Larger items can be picked up – contact **1800 621 349**

New volunteers are also welcome.

## Let's Do Lunch:

Aspendale's St Vincent de Paul Group organises a monthly lunch at St Louis' Church to give parishioners from Aspendale and Mordialloc the opportunity to socialise over lunch.

The menu varies each month and has included 'Soup and Toasties', 'Hot Beef Rolls' and 'Pizza & Salad' days. The lunch also includes activities such as Bingo, Movies, Games, Special Guest Speakers, performances from St Louis' School Choir and tours of St Louis' Sustainability Garden Area. The cost of lunch is simply a gold coin donation with the chance to win a Lucky Door Prize.

Dates for '*Let's Do Lunch*' are advertised in the Parish Bulletin.

**Transport** can be arranged for anyone unable to get themselves to the lunch. For more information contact the **Parish Office 9580 7981**.

## St Mary of the Cross Prayer Group:

Prayer Group meets on **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**  
at **7.30 - 9pm** in **St Louis Parish Meeting Room**.

Our aim is to provide a place of fellowship and care, for men and women to grow in faith.

### Group Scope (Key Activities)

- Come together to honour Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration), Mary in the recitation of the Rosary
- Reverence in the Litany
- Quiet prayer and meditation
- Songs and Hymns
- Benediction and Reconciliation if Priest is available

For more information contact **Felice Cortese: 9580 3450**



## Liturgy Group:

The Liturgy Group for our Parish helps plan our weekend liturgies. They focus on the readings of the Mass and try to add elements to the liturgy that will enrich our Eucharistic celebrations. The Group will focus on enhancing the ritual, music, environment, participation and other aspects of our weekend celebrations.

Anyone who would like to know more about or would like to join this group please contact the **Parish Office 9580 7981**.

## Parish Choirs:

There are two Parish Choirs that regularly assist at weekend Masses:  
at 9.30am Mass at St Louis' and at 11am Mass at St Brigid's.

These choirs unite to form Our Combined Parish Choir at special events such as Easter, Christmas and Confirmation Masses.

If you are interested in joining either Choir please chat to Choir members at Mass or contact the **Parish Office 9580 7981**.

## Children's Liturgy:

Children's Liturgy allows young school aged children to leave Mass during the Liturgy of the Word to listen to a children's version of the Gospel and do a related activity.



Children's Liturgy is on each **Sunday** during **9.30am Mass at St Louis'** and also during **11am Mass at St Brigid's** except during school holidays and when there is a rostered Family Mass for one of the School year levels.

All primary school aged children are welcome.

Volunteers are needed to help run the program on a rostered basis.

If you would like to assist with Children's Liturgy or want more information please contact **Kathie Martin 9512 0849** or the **Parish Office 9580 7981**

# St Louis' Tennis Club:

St Louis de Montfort's Tennis Club has four courts and Clubrooms located behind St Louis' Church. It was founded and funded by parishioners in 1975 to cater for people interested in playing tennis for fun and social recreation. The Clubrooms are well equipped and are often used by St Louis' School and other Parish Groups.

St Louis' Tennis Club provides a range of different opportunities for members to play tennis and socialise in a friendly environment. All ability levels welcome.

Activities include :

Adults Social Internal Competitions:

*Monday Night: Ladies' Internal Competition*

*Tuesday Night: Men's Internal Competition*

*Friday Night: Mixed Internal Competition*

Monday Afternoon Junior Internal Competition

Bayside & Moorabbin Districts Junior Competitions on Saturdays and Sundays

Ladies Mid-Week Pennant Competition

Saturday Senior Pennant Competition

Casual Social Tennis

Coaching is available for both Juniors and Seniors at very reasonable rates.

Contact St Louis' Coach: **Trish Angliss: 0421 604 849**

The Tennis Club produces a monthly newsletter to keep all members informed on what is happening at the Club.

Membership costs are kept low and include family, senior or junior memberships.

## St Louis de Montfort's Tennis Committee:

**President: Anthony Barnhoorn 9587 8689**

**Secretary: Donna Lannan 9587 5662**

**Treasurer: Susan Dornom 9580 7209**

**Membership Secretary: Cheryl Wilson 0430 201 675**

## Scripture and Friendship Group:

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 10am to 11.30am.

Home location is specified in the Sunday Bulletin.

Our aim is to provide a friendly, relaxed forum in a home environment where people can share a cuppa and enjoy discussing and reflecting on the weekend Mass readings.

Our vision is to enrich our understanding of the Gospels and promote friendships within the Parish.

Contact: Ann Brennan 0425 712 741 or Carmel Barker 0425 773 608

# St Mary of the Cross Men's Group:

We are a community minded group providing a forum for the men of the parish including single men, school dads and the young at heart.

Our monthly gatherings are relaxed but constructive and bring together men from both our church locations - St Brigid's Mordialloc and St Louis Aspendale.

We organise speaker nights, social/leisure gatherings, help with parish and school events as requested and organise fundraising activities to finance the two awards we present to year 6 students at the end of each year.

Why not come along to our next meeting? There are no membership fees.

Give us a call or email and we will happily provide more details.

Contact: President Michael Callaghan  
9580 1922

Secretary and Treasurer Tony Allday  
[ajallday@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ajallday@optusnet.com.au)



*Men's Group members at a fundraising BBQ*

## Trailer BBQ for Hire ...

**Cost is only \$75.00.**

The Men's group co-ordinates the hire of the Trailer BBQ which has proved great for medium to large events and is available for hire for \$75.00

For more info contact:

**Tony Allday 9580 7344.**

*Trailer Hire Form is on  
St Louis' school website.*



*The Men's Group portable trailer BBQ*

## Young Adults Group:

The Young Adults Group (YAG) is open to anyone aged 18-35years in the Parish.

The Young Adults Group meets in the **Upper Room** at **St Brigid's Church** on the **first Friday of each month at 7pm**

They also arrange social gatherings, do special outreach works and activities and organise prayer services at special times when they invite the wider Parish community to come along and join them. Contact Kristian Tangso 0490 357 852



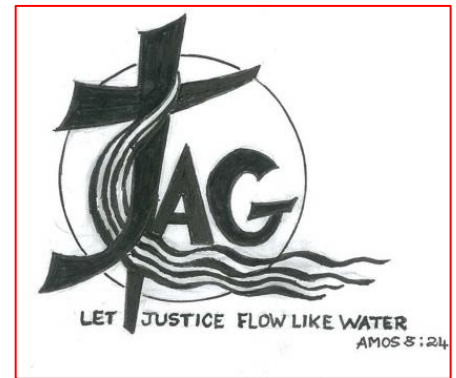
## Justice Action Group:

The Justice Action Group (JAG) meets on the **second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at St Louis' Church.**

The group focuses on many social justice issues - both local and global issues. The Meetings involve discussion and education of the members of the Group which extends to the wider Parish Community through Guest Speaker Nights or simply information being made available through our Parish publications.

Some members are involved in actions related to social justice issues and these activities are reported on at the JAG Meetings.

The Justice Action Group (JAG) encourages supporters of their activities to make donations at any time via a Donation Jar (the JAG Jar) which is left in the Church Foyer. The donated funds are used to help fund JAG's Projects, arrange Guest Speaker Nights, support JAG's work with asylum seekers and other social issues.



## Our Parish Saints:

### St Mary of the Cross

Mary MacKillop was born in Fitzroy in 1842. Her parents, Flora and Alexander MacKillop, were Catholic immigrants from Scotland. Mary was the eldest of eight children and at 16 she went out to work to support her younger brothers and sisters. Two years later she took a job as a governess on her uncle's farm in the small country town of Penola in South Australia. Here Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods and together they opened the first free Catholic School. A year later they founded a new order of religious nuns - the Sisters of St Joseph who were devoted to teaching the poor. As well as schools, Mary MacKillop and the sisters founded hospitals and orphanages, provided shelters for the homeless, former prostitutes and unmarried mothers.

Mary died in North Sydney on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1909. She was beatified in 1995 and canonised in 2010. She is Australia's first saint and is known as St Mary of the Cross and her feast day is 8<sup>th</sup> August.



# Our Parish Saints: St Brigid

St Brigid's Feast Day is on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb each year - the beginning of Spring in Ireland. St Brigid and St Patrick are the patron saints of Ireland. St Brigid is also the patron saint for babies, blacksmiths, cattle, chicken farmers, children whose parents are not married, dairy workers, fugitives, mariners, midwives, milkmaids, poets, scholars, travellers.

St Brigid was born in Ireland around 453, eight years before St Patrick's death and in a time when Ireland was embracing Christianity.

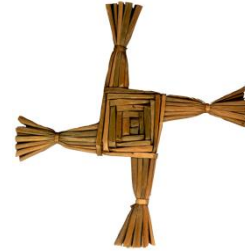
There are many versions of her life story and legends associated with St Brigid. It is believed she was born near Kildare. Her parents were a pagan chieftain and a Christian slave. She was named after an ancient Goddess

Brigid was known for her goodness and her generosity, giving much of what she had to the poor. She occasionally gave away some of her father's possessions and the produce from the dairy where her mother worked.

Although her parents would have preferred her to marry Brigid wanted to devote her life to God and the service of the poor. Legend says she asked God to take away her beauty so that she would not have to marry. Miraculously her beauty returned on the day she became a nun.

She began a religious community (the first in Ireland) initially with 7 companions in Ardagh then moving to Kildare. This community grew and she set up many others throughout Ireland. The Brigidine Sisters have St Brigid as their patron, so her influence continues today. Many people are inspired by Brigid's story, and admire her as one who championed women, justice and peace.

She died in 525 and is buried in the same tomb as St Patrick. Just as the shamrock is associated with St Patrick, a cross made from rushes is the symbol of St Brigid. This is one of the most widespread Irish customs associated with her.



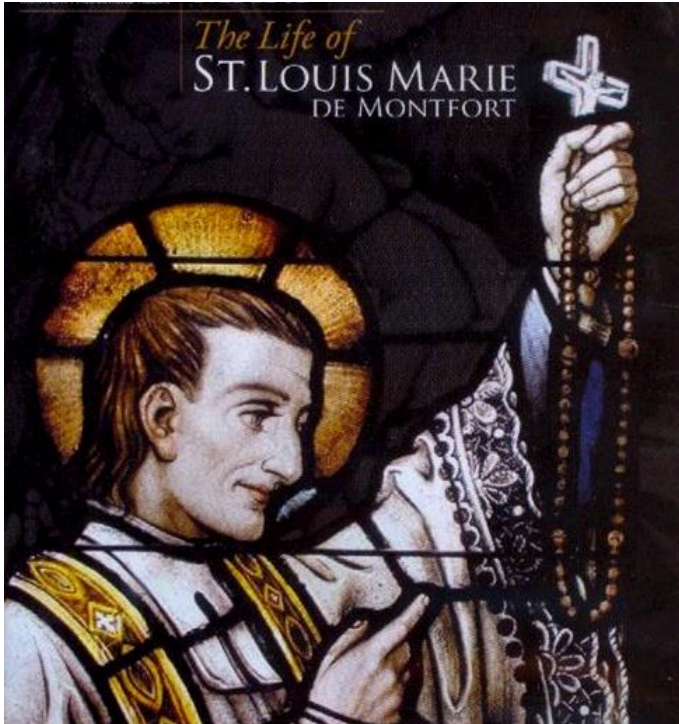
*St Brigid's Cross*

Legend tells how she picked up rushes from the floor and began to weave them into a cross while she sat at the deathbed of a pagan chieftain. It was customary for dirt floors to be strewn with rushes both for warmth and cleanliness. When he asked what she was doing, she told him about Jesus and his death on the cross. Before he died, the chieftain asked to be baptised.

Crosses are traditionally made from rushes, but they can also be made from wheat stalks, grasses, or reeds. The crosses are typically made on the eve of St Brigid's Day and placed above the door of the house for blessing and protection. There are many examples of St Brigid's Cross used to decorate our Church at Mordialloc. Also, one of the beautiful stained-glass windows is devoted to St Brigid and includes many of the symbols associated with her.



# Our Parish Saints: St Louis de Montfort



**Louis-Marie Grignion** was born in Montfort in France on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1673.

He was the eldest surviving child of the large family of Jean-Baptiste Grignion and Jeanne Robert. He grew up in Iffendic (near Montfort) where his father had bought a farm. He went to the Jesuit College of St Thomas Becket in Rennes from the age of 12 and after finishing his schooling he went on to study philosophy and theology there. He was then given the opportunity, through a benefactor, to study theology at the Sorbonne in Paris. He travelled to Paris on foot and on the way gave away all his money to the poor and vowed to live only on alms and become a champion of the poor. While studying he lodged in a succession of boarding houses among

the very poor and after two years became very ill and was hospitalized.

On his release from hospital Louis was given a place at Saint Sulpice, a French School of Spirituality. It was here that he began to focus his study on the Virgin Mary's place in Christian life and this later led to his devotion to the Holy Rosary and his many acclaimed books on Mary and the Rosary.

He was ordained in 1700. He was a gifted orator and preached the Rosary and formed Rosary confraternities.

After a pilgrimage to Rome to see Pope Clement XI he was appointed an Apostolic Missionary and preached for several years in missions throughout France, travelling from town to town on foot. He became known as the 'good father from Montfort'

He wrote several books including:

"True devotion to Mary"

"Secret of Mary"

"Secret of the Rosary"

He also wrote many poems and hymns. Louis established free schools for poor children. He helped found the "Daughters of Wisdom" – who devoted themselves to work in hospitals and also the instruction of poor girls and the "Company of Mary" – a missionary group. He died as a result of illness on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1716. Thousands attended his burial in the Parish Church at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre and there were stories of miracles performed at his tomb. He was beatified in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII and canonized in 1947 by Pope Pius XII.