

St Louise de Marillac

Who was St Louise?

- ✦ St Louise was born in France to an affluent family. Her mother died when she was very young and her Father died when she was 12.
- ✦ At 15, St Louise attempted to join a cloistered convent, but she was rejected.
- ✦ St Louise got married aged 22. She had a son named Michel. Some years later, her husband became unwell. She spent years looking after him until his death.
- ✦ At 42 years old, St Louise decided to intensify her ministry with the poor and those in bad health. At the time, all nuns typically lived in enclosed orders. However, St Louise started a community that worked directly with those in need on the streets and lived in the community alongside the general public.
- ✦ St Louise's work extended to hospitals, orphanages, institutions for older people people with mental health conditions, prisons and on the battlefield.
- ✦ St Louise's work was defined by humility and service.



Join us in celebrating St Louise's day by letting us know what you're doing to **walk in St Louise's Shoes today**. Send a picture or a story of how you are marking the day to eve.roseingrave@docservice.ie