

Marist Minute

My green thumb was activated when a friend offered me a punnet of tomato seedlings. I got to work with preparing the soil, spaced out the little green shoots, gave them a good watering and let them be. A few weeks later, my friend asked how they were going and how often I had watered them. "Once a week" I said, as a quick google search had told me to do. "No mate, they need a drink every second day if you want juicy tomatoes". I remember thinking that daily watering was going to be a pain, as I didn't have a watering system and had to do it by hand, but I was determined to give it a go. I experimented with different times to squeeze the watering into my daily routine and gradually became grateful for these regular 5-10 minutes spent in the garden, tending to stray limbs, removing the odd weed and replenishing with water.

The regular watering required to produce juicy tomatoes, is also necessary in my relationships, by way of attention, care and love. Our families need watering daily, once a week is insufficient to produce a full harvest. Scripture reminds us that Jesus also took this approach with his disciples, seizing the ordinary events of life and turning them into moments of encounter and nurture. Mass offers a deep watering, praying together and connecting with our faith community but this alone won't produce "fruit that will last" (John 15). Jesus tells his disciples that faith requires a response, to 'go' and "love each other" on a daily basis and in doing so, they will bear much fruit.



Journal Questions:

Where can you 'water your relationships' a bit more regularly this week?

How are you being watered in your relationships and faith?

What fruit are you producing?

