



# Marist Minute

As a child, I remember being left to my own devices and thinking that was a good thing. I enjoyed pottering around the back shed, building forts, digging holes and riding my bike to the shops. Sure, I fashioned a homemade bow and arrow and almost shot the neighbour, but I was also outside, enjoying the sunshine, developing technical skills and challenging my ingenuity. Today, leaving children to their own devices has taken on a whole new meaning with the proliferation of handheld technology. Digital devices have changed the way we communicate, shop, socialise and in the case of children, the way they play, learn and discover the world around them.

Back in 2016, Pope Francis warned young people in Poland of the dangers of becoming couch potatoes, encouraging them to lace up their boots and get off the bench, to be fully alive and to stand up to the injustice around them, rather than slip comfortably into indifference. He wisely explained that “some situations seem distant until, in some way, we touch them,” that “we don’t appreciate certain things because we only see them on the screen of a cellphone or a computer.” This proximity is a critical dimension of family life and relationships.

How blessed are we that God doesn’t leave us to our own devices? Like a good parent, God knows that we need to be brought into the proximity of relationships, drawn into the mystery of silence, and encounter His mercy through the loving actions of others.



## Journal Questions:

*Consider how those in your proximity are being left to their own devices.*

*How might God be calling you to be touched by a particular situation?*

