

Marist Minute

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” It’s one of those questions we love to ask young children. I remember my primary school class being asked this question and was intrigued by the answers ranging from fire-fighters, doctors, vets, actors and marine biologists (none of us really knew what that was, but it sounded great). In Charlie Mackesy’s book ‘The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse’ the question: What do you want to be when you grow up? is asked of a young boy who responds simply with “Kind”. It’s a profound understanding of what we are all called to be. Questions about ‘who’ we aspire to ‘be’ are often answered in favour of an emphasis on careers, training or skill.

After a long and challenging career, a retiring politician announced to the media that he was looking forward to being a full-time father, husband and son. Some careers seem incompatible with the call to family life, with the assumption that one must be sacrificed to enable the other. Perhaps the question we should be asking of ourselves and others, is not ‘what’ do you want to be but rather ‘who’? It’s a decision we make. Our sense of self is central to who we are as Marists and our daily choices reflect this reality. Presence and care for each other, seeking relationships founded on love, being attentive and welcoming with a sense of openness are hallmarks of what it means to ‘be’ a Marist teacher, social worker, administrator, caretaker, leader, nurse, youth minister, retiree or Association member.



Journal Questions:

Who do you want to be this week?

To what is God calling you?

