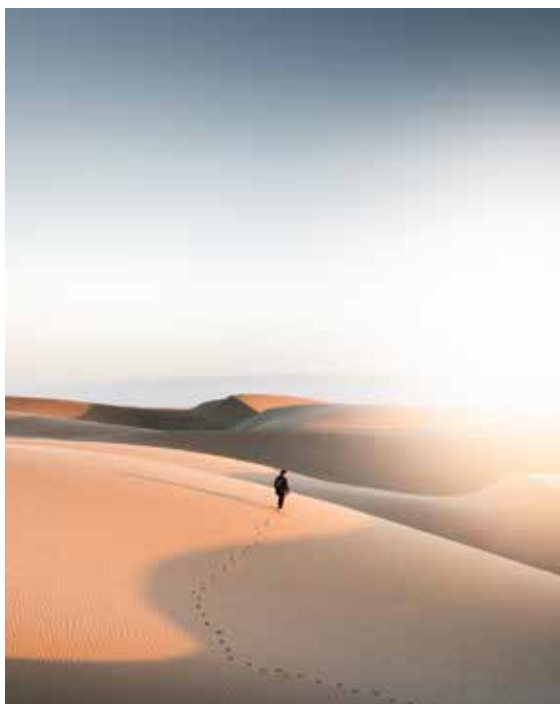


Marist Minute



Having moved from a life of prescribed timetables and calendar dates in the academic schedule of school life, it has been quite challenging to plan my weeks and months in a new role that provides much greater flexibility. Working remotely has also increased my reliance on a shared calendar system to inform colleagues of my appointments and availability. This has produced a level of accountability that has made me carefully consider what I spend my time on. I've always found it difficult to balance out what needs my attention, from lesson planning, to marking, professional learning, offering colleagues support, chatting with students, time in prayer, socialising, reading or calling the parents of a student. The to do list is never complete and the demands placed on educators are not reducing. And yet, our interdependence on each other to build and sustain an educational ministry remains a non-negotiable element. That's why some tasks remain unfinished at the end of the day, in favour of each member of the community knowing they are valued and loved. With the rise in loneliness and isolation, making ourselves available to the needs of others is the core business of being Marist.

The disciples of Christ experienced His radical availability as he walked, laughed, ate, wept and prayed with them. Jesus modelled what it means to accompany others on their journey of faith, to kneel in the muck and wash the feet of our friends and enemies alike. As he endured the agony of the cross, Jesus was available to the criminal who called on His mercy. His greatest miracles came from personal encounters: the unexpected tug on His cloak, the offering of a small boy, calling a tax collector down from a tree, walking on the road to Emmaus, the death of a loved one and the delight of a child's presence.



Journal Questions:

Have you experienced the radical availability of someone who gave you the time and support that was needed?

Reflecting over your past week, when did you find yourself challenged to be available to another in an unexpected way?

Where could your schedule make more room for the needs of others?