

# Marist Minute

"Who's that waving to me?" I thought, as I carried my laptop listening to a Zoom call and dodging puddles on my way to work, after leaving my car at the mechanics. My colleague had driven past me, noticed my struggle in the rain and decided to pull over and offer me a lift. What a saviour! As I was only three minutes away from work and already soaked through, I almost told him not to worry about it, but I accepted his offer and jumped in. The short car trip was a graced moment, as I realised my friend was also receiving something by stopping to joyfully serve me. Sometimes it's with reluctance that we hand over our crosses to others. We might even decline their support and unintentionally deny them an opportunity to serve.

It's challenging to imagine what went through Jesus's mind when Simon of Cyrene bent down to carry His cross. Perhaps Jesus didn't even realise, given the physical and spiritual weight that was bearing upon on His shoulders. We see Jesus's humility to the very end, asking His Father, "if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine" (Luke 22:42). It's clear that Jesus knew his limits and accepted Simon's support. He also would have understood the importance of this moment for Simon.

Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24-26) but there are also times when we must be prepared to put it down (along with our pride) to accept the support of others.



## Journal Questions:

*How do you respond when assistance is offered?*

*When have you been Simon to others?*

