

LENT 2024

# JOURNEY to FREEDOM

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**READ: Exodus 3:1-12**

***'He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.'***

Exodus 3:6

In the Exodus 3 narrative, the burning bush captivates me, particularly the moment when Moses hides his face from God—a poignant verse underscoring his feelings of inadequacy. Despite being chosen by God, Moses grapples with self-doubt and reluctance, a familiar human response to a divine calling. This underscores God's unique ability to empower and reassure those He calls.

How many of you resonate with a sense of imposter syndrome? Have you ever questioned your purpose, asking, "Why am I here?" Personally, this sentiment has accompanied me throughout my career. For those familiar with me, avoiding the limelight has been a deliberate choice—I even kept my wedding intimate with only ten guests. The fear of embarrassment and not fitting in contributes to this pervasive feeling.

Yet, when faced with God, can we truly embarrass ourselves? The God who knows us completely, loving us unconditionally, nullifies our need for such concerns. Stepping outside our comfort zones becomes a necessary journey. Echoing Paul's message to the Philippians (4:6), 'Do not worry about anything,' we're encouraged to present our requests to God through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. Verse 13 in Philippians 4 reinforces this idea: 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength' (NIV).

Much like Paul reassures the Philippians, God assures Moses in today's reading that He will be with him, providing a confirming sign. This assurance underscores the divine presence's paramount importance in fulfilling God's purposes. For us, it signifies that God is with us in all our endeavours. As we approach Easter, let's be brave and bold, secure in the knowledge that God accompanies us every step of the way.

**Let us pray:** *Lord, as Moses found courage in the burning bush despite his doubts, grant us the strength to overcome imposter syndrome and step boldly into the purpose You've called us to, assured of Your unwavering presence and guidance. Amen.*

**Iain Parks, Diocesan Director of Education**