"and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore" [Exodus 14:30]

The poor Egyptians, I'm sure God does not hate any of them. But the story, which comes from the mists of time, is the age old story of good and evil, oppression and liberation, exploitation and freedom, domination by the big guy and the strength of the little guy.

- The whole story tells us something about evil, that we must never forget, evil is not only real but its recalcitrant and determined. If you remember the story it starts with Moses asking Pharaoh to let his people go sacrifice to God in the desert, and when he says 'no' it escalates with plagues, water turning to blood, locusts and so on, until it leads to the angel of death 'passing over' the houses marked with the blood of the Passover lamb and killing all the first born elsewhere. Only then are they let to go but after much brutal treatment and further oppression.

- Evil ultimately 'burns out', it is crushed by what is right. It reminds us of the history of oppression [apartheid, colonialisation, dictatorships, etc] – so many of which litter the annals of history. For the Israelites the Passover was an act of God's grace.

Our Christian 'Passover' reminds us that the very nature of humanity is flawed in itself, and the human person cannot avoid suffering and death. The Christian Passover is about tackling evil at the root [we could easily be the victim or the oppressor], and so our Easter Feast is about healing at the root. Christ passes through the eye of suffering and death as the sinless one and is transformed in the resurrection. He is the 'New Man', which we aspire to become through the grace of baptism [as St. Paul tells us in that epistle tonight].

This is the night we see 'the Egyptians lying dead on the shore', the evil in us and by God's grace we will become like Christ transformed in glory.