

Thoughts on the Daily Word:

16th Week of Year. Tuesday 20th July. Readings: Exodus 14:21-15:1; Psalm: Exodus 15; Matthew 12:46-50.

This is the climax of the epic story of the birth of a nation. There is no corroborating historical evidence but that does not take away the power of a story. Whatever actually happened, it left an indelible mark on history because it formed a nation and then a movement. Everything that we do as Christians, especially in the Eucharist, comes back to this formative experience of a God who chose a rabble of people to form them into a message for all of humankind. It wasn't just something written down, the story is that of a people, formed as God's own people, to deliver a message but also to live out that message. As Christians we derive our existence as Church from the roots of Israel's experience of liberation. A totally unwarranted liberation, even in the face of rebellion and stubbornness. It is consoling for us to know that it wasn't a triumph of a people but a work of God, totally undeserved. That is the liberation!