

Seder Dish

The items for the Seder Dish and their symbolism are as follows:-

Egg

Usually hardboiled and roasted as a sign of new life/a new beginning.

Shank-bone of Lamb

A reminder of the lamb which was sacrificed so that the blood could be painted on to the doorposts of the Israelites in slavery, so that the angel of death would PASS OVER.

(The final plague was the death of the first born and Pharaoh's son died so Pharaoh let the Israelites go).

Charoset

A mixture of apples, nuts and wine which resembles the mortar and brick made by the Jews when they toiled for Pharaoh.

Parsley

A symbol of life as a reminder that God provided for them in the wilderness.

Bitter herbs

A symbol of the bitterness/sadness of slavery.

Lettuce

The lettuce symbolises the bitter enslavement of our fathers in Egypt. The leaves of romaine lettuce are not bitter. But the stem, when left to grow in the ground, turns hard and bitter, like the enslavement in Egypt. At first the deceitful approach of Pharaoh was soft and sensible, and the work was done voluntarily and even for pay. Gradually, it evolved into forced and cruel labour.



Also on the table is:-

Salt water To remind the people of their tears and sorrow whilst slaves.

Wine

Wine is drunk 4 times during the meal, to remind the people of the four promises made by Moses;

- To deliver them from slavery
- To redeem/save them
- To take them as his chosen people
- To give them a land of their own