

8 September

**The Birth of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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This festival in honour of the birth of the mother of our Lord is celebrated on this day in both the eastern and the western Churches. Falling nine months after the feast of the Conception of Mary, it stands, as Andrew of Crete says, 'on the boundary between the old and the new covenants and ushers in the new dispensation of grace. Today is built a shrine for the creator of the universe.'

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'