

## 3 September

### **Gregory the Great Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604**

Merciful Father, who chose your Bishop Gregory to be a servant of the servants of God: grant that, like him, we may ever long to serve you by proclaiming your gospel to the nations, and may ever rejoice to sing your praises; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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## 3 September

### **Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith.**

Gregory was born in 540 the son of a Roman Senator. As a young man he pursued a governmental career, and in 573 was made Prefect of the city of Rome. Following the death of his father, he resigned his office, sold his inheritance, and became a monk. In 579 he was sent by the Pope to Constantinople to be his representative to the patriarch. He returned to Rome in 586, and was himself elected Pope in 590. At a time of political turmoil, Gregory proved an astute administrator and diplomat, securing peace with the Lombards. He initiated the mission to England, sending forty monks from his own monastery to re-found the English Church. His writings were pastorally orientated. His spirituality was animated by a dynamic of love and desire for God. Indeed, he is sometimes called the 'Doctor of desire'. For Gregory, desire was a metaphor for the journey into God. As Pope, he styled himself 'Servant of the servants of God' – a title which typified both his personality and ministry. He died in 604.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**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.

**8 September**

**The Birth of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary**

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’*

**13 September**

**John Chrysostom  
Teacher of the Faith 407**

God of truth and love, who gave to your servant John Chrysostom eloquence to declare your righteousness in the great congregation and courage to bear reproach for the honour of your name: mercifully grant to those who minister your word such excellence in preaching, that all people may share with them in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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**13 September**

**John Chrysostom  
Teacher of the Faith**

John was born in Antioch in about 347, He was a brilliant preacher which earned him in the sixth century the surname 'Chrysostom', literally 'golden-mouthed'. He is honoured as one of the four Greek Doctors of the Church. Against his wish he was made Patriarch of Constantinople in 398. He set about reforming the Church and exposing corruption amongst the clergy and in the Imperial administration. 'Mules bear fortunes and Christ dies of hunger at your gate,' he is alleged to have cried out. He fell foul of the Empress Eudoxia and, in spite of the support of Pope Innocent I of Rome, was sent into exile twice, finally dying of exhaustion and starvation in September 407, with the words, 'Glory be to God for everything' on his lips.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*

**14 September**

**Holy Cross Day**

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; 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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**14 September**

**Holy Cross Day**

The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early Church, though the later has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, whilst overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335.

*Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'*