**15 August**

**The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Blessed are you, Mary for you believed

that what was said to you by the Lord

would be fulfilled. Alleluia.

In the womb of Mary, you found a

dwelling place on earth, O Christ;

remain for ever in our hearts. Alleluia

Mary gave birth to the Word of God;

truly she is the ever-blessed mother of

Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Almighty God, who looked upon the

lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary

and chose her to be the mother of your

only Son: grant that we who are redeemed

by his blood may share with her in the

glory of your eternal kingdom; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Church of England

**15 August**

**The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mary was a young Jewish girl living in Nazareth when a messenger from the

Lord announced that she was to be the

bearer of the Son of God to the world.

Her response, ‘Let it be to me according

to your word’ revealed her natural sense

of obedience to God and her reverence

for his word, showing her worthy to be

the bearer of the Word made flesh.

This day is now celebrated as the major

feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

throughout most of Christendom.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**20 August**

**Bernard**

**Abbot of Clairvaux**

**Teacher of the Faith, 1153**

Merciful redeemer, who by the life

and preaching of your servant Bernard,

rekindled the radiant light of your Church:

grant us, in our generation, to be inflamed

with the same spirit of discipline and love

and ever to walk before you as children of

light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Church of England

**20 August**

**Bernard**

Abbot of Clairvaux,

Teacher of the Faith.

Bernard was born at Fontaines near Dijon,

in France in the year 1090. He entered the Benedictine abbey at Cȋteaux in 1112, taking with him many of his young companions, some of whom were his own brothers.

He was a leader of the reform within Benedictinism at this time and in 1115 was sent to establish a new monastery at

a place he named Clairvaux, or ‘valley of light’. Though times were hard, he built up the community with his remarkable qualities of leadership. Bernard preached widely and powerfully and proved himself a theologian

of renown. Literally hundreds of houses were founded on the Cȋteaux or Cistercian system and Bernard’s influence on his own generation and beyond was immense. He died on this day in 1153.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*