

Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 7th September)

8th September



Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is the day the Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. Mary, though a human being had an exalted role in God's unfolding purpose. Her parents were Saint Anne and Saint Joachim.

13th September

Saint John Chrysostom - *doctor of the church, bishop*

Chrysostom was born around AD347 in Antioch. Despite his pagan education, he became increasingly drawn to Christianity leading to a time as a hermit, the extreme discipline of which permanently damaged his health. He was ordained deacon in AD381. He was a popular choice when he became Archbishop of Constantinople. However, life was not peaceful there. He found himself on the wrong side of theological and political divisions and he was in and out of office. He was finally exiled from Constantinople for reasons, which are not clear; and he died on 14th September AD407. During his life he was a prolific theological author; and many of his works are still read.

