

Vox Populi

2 September 2026

Only three nativities are celebrated in the Church's liturgical calendar: Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint John the Baptist.

Each of these are celebrated due to the unique role these births play in salvation.

On Tuesday, 8 September, the Church will celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary's nativity. Celebrated nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it has its origin in the East, commemorating Mary as the dawn that announces salvation (Isaiah 62:1) and precedes the "sun that rises from on high" (Luke 1:78).

"[The Solemnity] teaches us to see in Mary's birth a direct connection with that of the Messiah, Son of David," Pope Benedict XVI said in 2008.

"Mary's being is totally relative to Christ and in particular to his Incarnation. The predestination of Mary is inscribed in the predestination of Jesus, as likewise is that of every human person."

Saint John Paul II called her the "purest dawn of the Redemption" and the Immaculate "Daughter of Zion" destined to become the Mother of the Messiah.

In the words of Saint Augustine: "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

Her nativity is a sign God's promises are approaching fulfilment and that God's saving plan is in motion.

She gives Jesus Christ His human nature. He is born of woman and He receives His human form from her. He belongs to the human race through her.