

Dear Friends

Welcome to a new academic year and to a new phase of government this week. Let us pray for and encourage all those entering new classes, new schools and universities: students and academic staff alike. May they find new friends and new opportunities to learn and to share.

Today the Conservative party is set to announce a new Prime Minister: s/he will then appoint leading members of the government. May we pray for each of these leaders as they take on new responsibilities; and for the civil servants who advise and prepare new proposals for the shaping and delivery of public services.

Many throughout this country and the world face hard times ahead as winter approaches and inflation drives prices ever higher. Refugees who have nothing depend on our generosity; those who have resources need more than ever to share with those in need. Further afield we see the devastating effects of extreme climate: for example in Pakistan where a third of the country is currently under water. Countless people have lost their homes and possessions. May we be generous towards them and other helpless people suffering around this world. Donations are welcomed by the Disasters Emergency Committee - [dec.org.uk](https://dec.org.uk).

In these times of uncertainty and fear for the future, on this coming Thursday 8 September we have a Christian Feast Day celebrating the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Do read more at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity\\_of\\_Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_of_Mary). You will see some interesting artworks.

Throughout this week you may wish to pray the following Collect:

God of constant mercy,  
who sent your Son to save us:  
remind us of your goodness,  
increase your grace within us,  
that our thankfulness may grow,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

May you be richly blessed this week.

With all good wishes in Christ

Richard Hinder