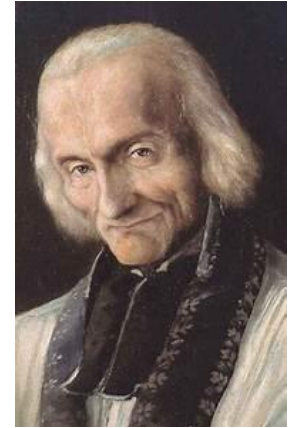


Festivals and Saints' Days (w/c 2nd August)

4th August

Saint Jean Vianney - *priest*

Saint Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney (also often known as the Curé d'Ars) was born on 8th May 1786. He grew up in the wake of the French Revolution amidst much anti-clerical sentiment. After a somewhat interrupted education, he was ordained in 1815 and in 1818 he became the parish priest of Ars, a small village. Vianney became known for his holiness. He was much sought as a spiritual director/confessor; and his small village became a pilgrimage destination long before his death in 1845. It is said that he spent up to fifteen hours a day in the confessional.



5th August



Saint Oswald - *martyr, king*

Oswald was born around AD604. From AD634, he was King of Northumbria. He was energetic in spreading Christianity throughout his kingdom; and although we commemorate him as a martyr, his Christian character was manifested most clearly in his life. He was killed on 5th August AD641/642 at the Battle of Maserfield - probably near Oswestry. His body was dismembered and the details are rather grisly. These relics eventually ended up in various locations.

6th August

The Transfiguration

This feast commemorates events narrated in the Gospels:

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Eli'jah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Eli'jah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

(The Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 17, verses 1 - 9)

There are other versions in Mark 9: 2 - 10 and Luke 9: 28 - 36.