**5 August**

**Oswald**

King of Northumbria, Martyr 642

Lord God almighty, who so kindled the faith of

King Oswald with your Spirit that he set up the

sign of the cross in his kingdom and turned his

people to the light of Christ: grant that we, being

fired by the same Spirit, may always bear our

cross before the world and be found faithful

servants of the gospel; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

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**5 August**

**Oswald**

**King of Northumbria**

Born around the year 605, the son of King Ǣlfrith of Northumbria, Oswald was forced to leave home after his father’s death and move to Iona where, influenced by the monks of St Columba, he was baptised. Returning to Northumbria in 634, Oswald defeated the British king, setting up a cross as his standard and gathering his men around it to pray the night before the battle. A man of humility and generosity, Oswald worked closely with his friend Aidan, travelling with him on his missionary journeys and acting as his interpreter. He died in battle on this day in 642 defending his kingdom from the Mercians.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**6 August**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord.**

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses

upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus

he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength

so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the

world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive

and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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**6 August**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord.**

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mount is told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and Peter refers to it in his Second Epistle. Each time, it is made clear that God’s salvation is for all and Christ is the one who brings that salvation. The testimony of the law and the prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah, and the event also pre-figures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**8 August**

**Dominic**

Priest, Founder of the Order of

Preachers. 1221

Almighty God, whose servant, Dominic grew in the knowledge of your truth and formed an order of preachers to proclaim the faith of Christ: by your

grace give to all people a love for your word and a longing to share the gospel, so that the whole world

may come to know you and your Son Jesus Christ

our Lord. Amen.

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**8 August**

**Dominic**

Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers

Born in 1170 at Calaruega in Castile, of the ancient Guzan family, Dominic became an Augustinian or Austin Friar and led a disciplined life of prayer and penance. He became Prior in 1201 but three years later, whilst on a trip to Denmark with his Bishop, he passed through France and came across Cathars or Albigenses. They claimed to be Christians but held the heterodox belief that flesh and material things were evil, that the spirit was of God and that flesh and spirit were in permanent conflict. Dominic formed an Order of Preachers to combat this belief, although he would have nothing to do with the vengeful Crusade that began to be waged against the Albigenses. The Dominican Order spread to many countries in just a few years and did much to maintain the credibility of the orthodox faith in late-mediæval Europe. Dominic died on this day at Bologna in 1221.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*