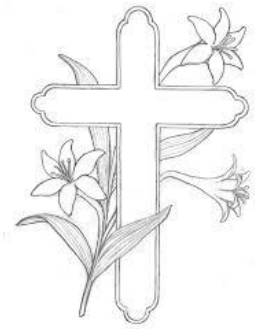


St Clement's Monthly News

April 2026

Embracing Easter and the Joy of Easter Season



It is important to remind ourselves here, that Easter is not simply a single joyful Sunday, but the beginning of a whole season of celebration in which the Church reflects on the transforming power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Indeed, this resurrection stands at the centre of our faith. As Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians (15:17) that “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile”. However, the good news we proclaim at Easter is that Christ has been raised and death does not have the final word. The Gospel accounts tell us how the first witnesses to the resurrection were filled with amazement and joy. For instance, in Luke’s Gospel (24:36–41), when the disciples encounter the risen Jesus, it shares how they were “surprised and frightened,” yet soon their fear turned into hope. Therefore, Easter season invites us to share in that joy. The risen Christ is not only a figure of the past; he is alive and present with his people today. In Matthew (28:20), Jesus promises his followers that “I am with you always, to the end of the age”. Considering this promise, the joy of Easter is not temporary or sentimental, but rather a deep and lasting hope rooted in God’s faithfulness. This is in line with N. T. Wright, who reminds us, that “The resurrection is not simply about life after death; it is about God’s new creation breaking into the present world.”

Consequently, in the weeks following Easter day, the Church continues to celebrate this good news. These days of Easter lead us toward Pentecost, reminding us that the resurrection leads to mission. The risen Christ sends his disciples into the world with the message of hope and reconciliation. The resurrection calls us to live as people of hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings. Wherever we see acts of love, reconciliation, and compassion, we are given chance to embrace the new life that Christ brings.

During this Easter season, we are invited to take time reflect on how the risen Christ is at work in our own lives and in our community. Where do we see signs of hope? Where might God be calling us to bring encouragement, kindness, or renewal to others? Therefore, Easter reminds us that God is always able to bring life out of what seems lost and hope out of what appears hopeless. As St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians (5:17), “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation”. This is the heart of the Easter message: through the risen Christ, God is making us and all things new.

May this Easter season fill our hearts with joy and strengthen us to live as witnesses to the risen Lord in our homes, our parish, and our community. In the words of Augustine of Hippo, *“We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.”*

Rev’d John

Diary for April



Wed 1 st	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee morning
	8.00pm	Night Prayer
Thurs 2nd	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Watch
Fri 3 rd	10.30am	Good Friday Coffee and Hot Cross Buns
	2.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Sun 5th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Mon 6 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
Tues 7 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 8 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sat 11 th	10.30am	Bingo & Bacon in the Parish Hall
Sun 12th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 13 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 14 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 15 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 16 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.00pm	Men's Group
Fri 17 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 19th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 20 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 21 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 22 nd	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Fri 24 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 26th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 27 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 28 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 29 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	7.30pm	Urmston Choral Society Concert

THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

EASTER SUNDAY April 5th
No Service at the Branch Church

**There will be 10.30am Eucharist
at the Parish Church**

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
Meeting in the Parish Hall
Contact Samantha

Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

HOLY WEEK

Mon 30th March

8.00pm Night Prayer

Tues 31st March

9.30am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Hearing the Gospel of
Matthew part 1 at St Mary's

Wed 1st April

10.15am Eucharist

7.30pm Hearing the Gospel of
Matthew part 2 at St Mary's

8.00pm Night Prayer at St Clement's

Maundy Thurs 2nd April

7.30pm Eucharist & Watch

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Coffee and Hot Cross Buns

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve 7.30pm

Eucharist & Renewal of Baptismal
Vows at St Mary's

EASTER SUNDAY 10.30am

Eucharist

and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

