



Rocket Science



Ramadan/
Shawwal 1433

August 2012

*In the name of
Allah, most
Gracious, most
Merciful*

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Eid mubarak!

The holy month of Ramadan is due to end in New Zealand on Sunday 19 or Monday 20 August (**subject to confirmation of sighting the new moon**). All of us at *Rocket Science* and the Mount Albert Islamic Trust wish all our readers "Eid Mubarak!" May Allah (swt) grant you the rewards for your fasting and your extra devotional activities during this special month, and may He help us to continue in the heightened sense of iman once Ramadan is over.



And don't forget the rewards for fasting any six days in Shawwal (except Eidul-Fitr). Abu Ayub (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Whoever fasts Ramadan and follows it with six days of Shawwal, it will be as if he fasted for a lifetime." (Narrated by Muslim, Abu Dawood, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nisaa'i and Ibn Maajah)

123456 The virtue of fasting
six days of Shawwaal

*thanksgiving,
jubilation*

*no event or
season*

forgiving sins

Celebrating Eidul-Fitr

Very soon it will be Eidul-Fitr and the ensuing celebrations. May Allah (swt) bless us all and grant that we use this Eidul-Fitr as a lens to focus on the good deeds which have shone brightly during Ramadan, to light the way through this coming year until next Ramadan, insha Allah.

Eid is a day of thanksgiving and jubilation, as it signifies the successful completion of the sacred month of Ramadan. This festival marks the completion of an act of duty and devotion. It teaches us the lesson that real happiness arises from performing one's duty and making sacrifices for a noble objective.

This unique method of devotion is found only in Islam. No other religion can match this devotion, which is done only to praise Allah (swt) and give Him thanks. It has no connection with any event, nor is it related to the changes of season or cycles of agriculture. It is not a festival related in any way to any worldly affairs. Its significance is purely spiritual. It is the day when Muslims thank Allah for having given them the will, the strength and the endurance to observe the fast and obey Allah's commandments during the holy month of Ramadan. It is greeted in beautiful terms all over the world. It is called Eid Saheed, Eidul-Farhan and Yaumul-Jameel.



Fasting is one of the most significant pillars of Islam. The practice of fasting sublimates the inner self of man and inculcates discernment of the pangs and hardships which the poor and needy face. This feeling is awakened in all those, whether rich or poor, young or old, who observe fasting. It is the loftiest achievement of moral exercise which is celebrated with the greatest zest on the day of Eid.

Listen to what Ali (ra) said about Eidul-Fitr. He delivered a sermon and said, "O people! Verily this day of yours is the day when the righteous are rewarded and the wretched are losers. It is a day which is similar to the one on which you shall be standing (before your Lord). Therefore, when you come out of your homes to go to places of your prayer, remind yourselves of your standing in the presence of your Lord (on the Day of Judgment). And when you return to your homes (after prayer), remind yourselves about your returning to your homes in Paradise. O servants of Allah! Verily the minimum reward for those men and women who fasted (during Ramadan) is an angel who calls out to them on the last day of the month of Ramadan, 'O servants of Allah! Rejoice the glad tiding that all your previous sins have been forgiven.'"

Therefore, be warned, Eid is not a day to strut around boastfully with expensive garments. It is not for those who ate and drank in Ramadan without a valid excuse. It is not for those who neglect their parents, causing them hurt and abuse. It is only for those who are conscious of the meeting with their Lord, who live in His obedience and strive for the good and upliftment of humanity.

There is a beautiful hadith about Eidul-Fitr: The Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (saw) is reported to have said, "And then the night of Eidul-Fitr,

angels

the night that is called Laylatul-Jaa'izah (the night of prize-giving), comes along. On the morning of Eid, Allah sends down the angels to all the lands of the earth where they take their positions at access points of roads, calling out with a voice that is heard by all except man and jinn, 'O Ummah of Muhammad (saw), come forth from your houses towards a Lord that is noble and gracious, who grants much and pardons the major sins.' When they proceed towards the places for their Eid salat, Allah says to the angels, 'What indeed is the reward of that employee who had rendered his services?' The angels reply, 'O Lord and Master, it is only right that he should receive his reward in full for his services.' Allah then says, 'I call you to witness, O My angels, that for their having fasted during the month of Ramadan, and for their having stood in prayer by night, I have granted to them as reward My pleasure and have granted them forgiveness. O My servants, ask now of Me, for I swear by My honour and My greatness, that whatsoever you shall beg of Me this day in this assembly of yours for the needs of the Hereafter, I shall grant you; and whatsoever you shall ask for worldly needs, I shall look at you favourably. By My honour I swear, as long as you shall obey My commands, I shall cover your faults. By My honour and by My greatness do I swear that I shall never disgrace you among the evil-doing ones and disbelievers. Depart now from here, you are forgiven. You have pleased Me, and I am pleased with you.' The angels, seeing this great reward bestowed by Allah upon the ummah of Muhammad (saw) on the day of Eidul-Fitr, become greatly pleased and happy."

ummah

Therefore it is our duty, on this happy occasion of Eidul-Fitr, to pray to Allah to bless the Muslim ummah and unite its ranks.

As we mark the end of Ramadan, we bid farewell to this month with mixed feelings. We do not want to let it go because of what it promised us in terms of immense spiritual rewards as well as the opportunity it offered for the self-atonement of our souls. We put extra effort and pushed ourselves to make the most of the month. We are excited about the possibility of truly having earned Allah's pleasure. We feel grateful to Allah for affording us the life, faith and health to earn numerous rewards.

gratitude, taqwa

Ramadan showed us the true potential of adopting a lifestyle that is closer to our Islamic ideals. Let us therefore celebrate Eid with an attitude of gratitude and a renewed spirit of taqwa in our hearts. During our celebrations let us also ensure that we avoid any haram practices and activities that may potentially nullify our hard-earned credits.

different routes

Remember the custom of the Prophet (saw). When he went out for Eid prayer, he went by one route and returned by another route, thus giving him a chance of meeting and greeting more faithful on the way.

Eid is not all about dressing up in fine clothes, eating delicious food and pursuing carnal pleasures and delights. In its outward celebration, Eid is actually meant to symbolise the acceptance of acts of worship, obedience, the remission of sins and mistakes, the conversion of bad deeds into good deeds, the glad tidings of promotion to higher spiritual degrees and the conferring of robes of honour and gracious findings. Eid should be



success

celebrated by being together and, when celebrating, Allah should be remembered. Whether we are happy or sad, He should not be forgotten.

Imam Ali (ra) has defined Eid as any day that is free of rebellion against Allah (swt). Eid is for those whose fasts have been accepted and whose salat is worthy of reckoning and every day when one does not commit a sin is an Eid.

Eidul-Fitr, therefore, is the day of success attained in the month of Ramadan, fasting, revelation of the Quran and Laylatul-Qadr being some of the successes. It is a day that the rich and the poor enjoy the happiness of the day, as the haves give the fitra to the have-nots. The fitra ensures acceptance of fast, as the fast remains suspended between earth and heaven until the fitra is executed. Rejoicing on the day of Eid is to obey Allah (swt) and serve humanity, the twin purport of Al-Islam.



Judgement Day

Remember, the gracious day of Eid resembles the Day of Resurrection. The noble Prophet (saw) said, "Whoever commits a sin on Eid day is like one who commits a sin in Allah's presence on Judgement Day." So keep it holy, reach out to the orphans and the under-privileged that you may be mercifully received by Prophet Muhammad (saw) who was one of the greatest orphans that ever lived.

'Dollar a day' sponsorship

Not sure where to donate your zakat to? As reported in the July issue, the International Centre for Children Charitable Trust (ICCCT) cares for more than 300 orphans in Sri Lanka, including those made orphans by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. For just a dollar a day, you can sponsor a child. Zakat maal can be used for this and, because the ICCCT is a registered charity, donations are tax-deductible in New Zealand. For more details, contact www.iccct.org (website), icccharity@gmail.com (email) or 021 1677292 (mobile).

caring for orphans

\$1
a day

Food
Clothing
Shelter
Education
Healthcare
For Orphans

www.iccct.org
icccharity@gmail.com
021 167 7292

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN CHARITABLE TRUST

YWMA corner

Sadaqah

This is the second part of a two-part article based on the YWMA monthly study circle. For any queries regarding our study circles please contact us on ymwa.nz@gmail.com or visit us on www.ymwa.org for information on our events.

Essence of sadaqah

To be able to enjoy tremendous rewards from Allah (swt) for every sadaqah that we give, we need to observe the following teachings from the Quran and hadith:

Sadaqah must be done sincerely for the pleasure of Allah and not out of riya' (showing off) to gain praise or recognition from others

"O you who believe! Do not render vain your charity by reminders of your generosity or by injury, like him who spends his wealth to be seen of men and he does not believe in Allah nor in the last Day." (Quran, 2: 264)

Sa'd ibn Abu Waqqas (ra) narrated that Allah's Messenger (saw) said, "... whatever you spend (for Allah's sake) you will be rewarded for it, even for a morsel of food which you may put in the mouth of your wife." (Bukhari)

It is better to conceal what you give or do as sadaqah

"And whatever you spend in charity or whatever vow you make, be sure Allah knows it all. But the wrongdoers have no helpers. If you disclose (acts of) charity, even so it is well, but if you conceal them and make them reach those (really) in need, that is best for you. It will remove from you some of your (stains of) evil. And Allah is well acquainted with what you do." (Quran, 2:270-271)

Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "Seven people will be shaded by Allah under His shade on the day when there will be no shade except His. They are:

1. a just ruler
2. a youth who grew up in the worship of Allah
3. a man whose heart is attached to the mosque
4. two men who love each other for Allah's sake, meeting for that and parting for that
5. a man who is called by a woman of beauty and position but he says, "I fear Allah"
6. a man who gives in charity and hides it, such that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives in charity, and
7. a man who remembered Allah in private and so his eyes shed tears." (Bukhari)

Sadaqah must be from halal (lawful) sources

Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated that Allah's Messenger (saw) said, "If one gives in charity what equals one date-fruit from honestly earned money, and Allah accepts only honestly earned money, Allah takes it in His right (hand). And then, He enlarges its reward for that person (who has given it), as anyone of you brings up his baby horse, so much so that it becomes as big as a mountain." (Bukhari)

1

2

3

4

Begin charity with your dependants

Hakim ibn Hizam (ra) narrated that the Prophet (saw) said, "The upper hand is better than the lower hand, (ie he who gives charity is better than him who takes it). One should start giving first to his dependants. And the best object of charity is that which is given by a wealthy person (from the money which is left after his expenses). And whoever abstains from asking others for some financial help, Allah will give to him and save him from asking others. Allah will make him self-sufficient." (Bukhari)

5

Do not delay giving of sadaqah, nor show lethargy or negligence in giving sadaqah

"And spend something (in charity) out of the substance which We have bestowed on you, before death should come to any of you and he should say, 'O my Rabb (only God and Sustainer)! Why do you not give me respite for a little while? I should then have given (largely) in charity, and I should have been one of the doers of good.'" (Quran, 63:10)

Abu Hurairah (ra) narrated that a man came to the Prophet (saw) and asked, "O Allah's Messenger, which charity is the most superior in reward?" He replied, "The charity which you practise while you are healthy, niggardly and afraid of poverty and wish to become wealthy. Do not delay it to the time of approaching death and then say, 'Give so much to such and such, and so much to such and such.' And it has already belonged to such and such (his heirs)." (Bukhari)

6

Do not count the sadaqah you give

"Spend in charity and do not keep count for then Allah will also keep count in giving you provision." (Bukhari and Muslim)

7

Seek only the desire to see Allah, which is the supreme success in Paradise. Do not expect favour or reward from any person for the sadaqah you give

"Those who spend their wealth for increase in self-purification, and have in their minds no favour from anyone for which a reward is expected in return, but only the desire to seek for the countenance of their Creator Most High; and soon will they attain (complete) satisfaction." (Quran, 92:18-21)

Five ways to give physical sadaqah

The verb *give* doesn't necessarily denote having to give away money; yet most of us absolve our obligation for charity by donating lots of money during Ramadan to various causes. Although these are all noble acts, what about other lasting charity acts that we can do physically?

The Prophet (saw) said, "Every good deed is charity." (Bukhari)

He also said, "On every person's joints or small bones (ie fingers and toes), there is sadaqah due every day when the sun rises.

Doing justice between two people is sadaqah; assisting a man to mount his animal, or lifting up his belongings onto it is sadaqah; a good word is sadaqah; every step you take towards prayer is sadaqah; and removing harmful things from pathways is sadaqah." (Muslim)

Always start with a smile

We can never underestimate the wonders behind a smile. The Prophetic teachings tell us that every



2

smile is charity.

Step one is to make sure you smile; often opportunities in the day arise where we can effortlessly smile and spread the salam, such as when you are on the road travelling, going to work, at the mosque, when you pass by a homeless person, when you meet guests or see children (as often it brings a smile to their face too!).

Remember Allah frequently

To remember Allah (swt) is to give sadaqah with your tongue. The value and weight of dhikr are heavy and outstanding, and dhikr is our key to being rich in our relationship with Allah (swt). In an amazing narration, the Prophet (saw) advised the one who could not give money to charity, or offer anything from their possessions, to increase in performing dhikr as a better equivalent.

Allah (swt) says in Surah Al-Baqarah: "Remember Me, and I will remember you." (2:152).

3

Remove harm from the pathway

A noble act we often overlook is to remove something harmful from the pathway of others. It may be a piece of glass that is dangerous on the road, a needle on the floor, or a disturbing rock on a busy school road where children may trip and fall. This simple act can be a means of forgiveness as many hadiths narrated the benefit of removing harm from the road. Moreover, this will increase your social alertness and help improve your surroundings and community to make it a pleasant place to be.



4

Say good words

Our tongue can be the cause of our destruction or our salvation, yet we often speak before we think. Ask yourself if your words will be a source of benefit or comfort to someone. Have you mentioned the name of Allah (swt) in your conversation? Good words are like a plant that flourishes with many fruits, as the Prophet (saw) said: "It is also charity to utter a good word." (Bukhari)

You can alleviate someone's suffering by reminding them to be patient, to have trust in Allah or say *Alhamdulillah, Jazak Allahu khair*. You can share knowledge in a conversation about something new you've learnt, thus benefitting others. In social psychology, great emphasis lies in using optimism when talking to people; so if you know of someone in hardship this Ramadan, console them and assist them through your goodly words and efforts.



5

Donate your talents, skills and strength

It is also sadaqah to give your talents, skills and strengths in helping the community and for good work. Allah (swt) has blessed each of us with different talents and if we all work together, we can build a better place.

There are many other forms of physical Sadaqah, such as visiting the sick, caring for an orphan, taking care of your body, and looking after your parents, amongst others.

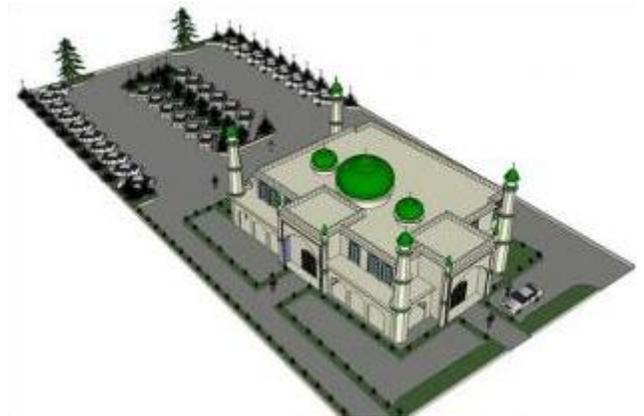
We never know when death has been decreed for us. Today we live and we never know how long we will enjoy the pleasure of this world. But one thing is certain: life in this world is nothing compared to the everlasting life in the Hereafter.

Allah (swt) tells us, "Nothing is the life of this world but play and amusement, but best is the Home in the Hereafter, for those who are righteous; will you not then understand?" (Quran, 6:32)

Let us prepare ourselves for Jannah (the Garden of Bliss, or Paradise). Let us think of giving sadaqah to support Islamic projects like the building of mosques, Islamic schools, Islamic libraries, orphanage and da'wah centres. If Allah (swt) has blessed us with wealth, let us not delay to build these Islamic projects for the sole pleasure of Allah (swt). If we do so, we will, insha Allah, attain the rewards of doing good deeds continuously even after we die.

New Hamilton mosque

The *Indian Newslink* newspaper¹ has announced that a new mosque is planned for Hamilton, insha Allah. Located at 45 Bandon Street, Frankton, the 3,000 sq m compound includes a car park, and the two-storey Islamic centre building, with a library, community hall, learning area for children and a kitchen on the ground floor, and the prayer hall on the upper floor. It is owned and managed by the New Zealand Muslim League, and the total cost is estimated at \$800,000. "Subject to completion of the requisite formalities, construction would commence by the end of this year [2012]," League President Mohammed Hassan said.



Artist's impression of the proposed Islamic centre and car park

¹ New Islamic Centre coming up in Hamilton. www.indiannewslink.co.nz. 16 July 2012

YWMA corner 2

Fix a date and skate mate: YMWA Youth Ambassadors glide high!

The skies were dusky, the wind was icy. It was a day to be indoors tucked under the blanket sipping a cup of hot chocolate. Despite the gloomy weather conditions, adrenaline was pumping in the group of YMWA Youth Ambassadors. YMWA Youth Ambassadors were gliding high on Saturday 14 June to mark the last weekend of the school holidays.

As a first project, Sara Fahmy, YMWA Youth Ambassador of Marist College, took the leap and organized the first YMWA Youth Ambassador gathering. Her project was to have a fun gathering where all Youth Ambassadors could meet up, enjoy and bring along their friends from each of their schools to join in. Regardless of ethnicity, religion or age, all were welcome to join the ice skating session. The event attested to be a success with lots of fun, laughter and amusement on the ice. Contrary to the mentors' role, they were supported by the Youth Ambassadors and friends who had skillfully mastered the art of moving both feet on the ice with an elegant slide. Amongst the group were first timers enthusiastic to learn regardless of the bruises caused by the falls.

Ice cubes and snow balls were fired at each other in the rink while manoeuvres of figure skating were tried out along with backward glides proving to be a unique skill for the brave.

An informal meeting was held over some delicious baked goodies, mouthwatering chocolate chip cookies, healthy fruit platters and drinks, where the YMWA Youth

Ambassadors discussed their projects in their respective schools. Each YMWA Youth Ambassador is allocated a YMWA mentor who supports them through their project to identify areas the Youth Ambassador wishes to work on.

The YMWA Youth Ambassador program identifies youth from schools who show leadership skills to act as YMWA Youth Ambassadors. The students from each school meet up on a regular basis and tackle projects of their liking to meet the needs of Muslimah Youth in their school or to meet the needs of other girls either in their community, or in their circle of friends. Through their chosen projects they develop leadership skills and have access to a YMWA mentor who is dedicated to drive their respective projects. The YMWA Youth Ambassadors also get involved in other aspects and, depending on their abilities and commitment, are undergoing leadership training by tackling tasks, and encouraging other girls to get involved in the community. Through this program the YMWA hopes to build a strong network of young Muslim girls who are well connected from various schools to have a forum to discuss matters of concern or areas of need in their schools, and to help become strong young Muslim women by acting as the catalyst for positive changes. They are our present leaders in schools, promising hope for future leadership of the community!



ice skating

après skate

leadership

Voice of Islam



VOI delivers the message of Islam based on the teachings of the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (practices) of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). The show neither delivers nor promotes any political, national, ethnic, social or class perspective – its focus is purely on da'wah and deen-al-Islam (the Islamic faith/way of life).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- Triangle TV in Auckland (8.00 & 11.30am Sat; 8.00am Sun)
- CTV in Christchurch
- Channel 9 Dunedin
- Telstra Digital TV in Wellington & Christchurch CH 50
- SKYTV CH 89 and Freeview CH 21 in New Zealand
- MAITV in Fiji
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa

4 & 5 August

Qur'an 2: 183-186

LECTURE: Fiqh of Ramadan part 2 by Bilal Dannoun

DOCUMENTARY: Prayers of the Prophet from the Qur'an part 1 by Harun Yahya

11 & 12 August

Qur'an 2: 183-186

LECTURE: Ramadan Q&A by Bilal Dannoun

NO STONE UNTURNED: Zakat by Bilal Dannoun

DOCUMENTARY: Prayers of the Prophet from the Qur'an part 2 by Harun Yahya

18 & 19 August

Qur'an 2: 183-186

LECTURE: Qur'an – Ramadan Abdur Raheem Green

NO STONE UNTURNED: Festivals by Bilal Dannoun

MY PATH TO ISLAM: Sr Sakinah

TID BITS: Zakat by Yusuf Estes

25 & 26 August

Qur'an: 39: 55-60

LECTURE: Arrogance by Yassir Fazaga

DOCUMENTARY: The Character of Arrogance by Harun Yahya

TID BITS: Jihad by Yusuf Estes



Yassir Fazaga

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: www.voiceofislamtv.com

Auckland prayer timetable for August 2012

(from www.islamicFinder.org. For other cities in New Zealand, see www.fianz.co.nz).

* The end of Ramadan is to be confirmed by sighting of the new moon.

Anas bin Malik (ra) reported that Muhammad (saw) never proceeded (for the prayer) on Eidul-Fitr unless he had eaten some dates. He added that Muhammad used to eat an odd number of dates.

Umm Atiyah (ra) reported, "The Messenger of Allah (saw) commanded us to bring out on Eidul-Fitr and Eidul-Adha young women, hijab-observing adult women and menstruating women. The menstruating women stayed out of the actual salat, but participated in good deeds and dua."

(Hadith)

Date	Ramadan	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	12	5:49	7:18	12:27	3:14	3:57	5:35	7:00
2	13	5:48	7:17	12:27	3:15	3:58	5:36	7:00
3	14	5:47	7:16	12:27	3:16	3:59	5:37	7:01
4	15	5:47	7:15	12:27	3:16	4:00	5:37	7:02
5	16	5:47	7:15	12:27	3:16	4:00	5:37	7:02
6	17	5:45	7:13	12:26	3:17	4:01	5:39	7:03
7	18	5:44	7:12	12:26	3:18	4:02	5:40	7:04
8	19	5:43	7:11	12:26	3:19	4:03	5:41	7:04
9	20	5:42	7:10	12:26	3:19	4:03	5:41	7:05
10	21	5:41	7:09	12:26	3:20	4:04	5:42	7:06
11	22	5:40	7:08	12:26	3:20	4:05	5:43	7:06
12	23	5:39	7:07	12:26	3:21	4:06	5:44	7:07
13	24	5:38	7:06	12:25	3:22	4:06	5:45	7:08
14	25	5:37	7:04	12:25	3:22	4:07	5:45	7:08
15	26	5:36	7:03	12:25	3:23	4:08	5:46	7:09
16	27	5:35	7:02	12:25	3:23	4:09	5:47	7:10
17	28	5:34	7:01	12:25	3:24	4:09	5:48	7:11
18	29	5:32	6:59	12:24	3:25	4:10	5:49	7:11
19	30*	5:31	6:58	12:24	3:25	4:11	5:50	7:12
20		5:31	6:58	12:24	3:25	4:11	5:50	7:12
21		5:29	6:56	12:24	3:26	4:12	5:51	7:13
22		5:28	6:54	12:23	3:27	4:13	5:52	7:14
23		5:26	6:53	12:23	3:27	4:14	5:53	7:15
24		5:25	6:52	12:23	3:28	4:15	5:54	7:16
25		5:24	6:50	12:23	3:28	4:15	5:54	7:16
26		5:23	6:49	12:22	3:29	4:16	5:55	7:17
27		5:21	6:48	12:22	3:29	4:17	5:56	7:18
28		5:20	6:46	12:22	3:30	4:17	5:57	7:19
29		5:19	6:45	12:21	3:30	4:18	5:58	7:19
30		5:17	6:43	12:21	3:31	4:19	5:58	7:20
31		5:16	6:42	12:21	3:31	4:19	5:59	7:21

Asr 1: Maliki, Shafii and Hanbali schools (single shadow length)

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

Credits

Rocket Science is a monthly newsletter produced by the Mount Albert Islamic Trust.

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Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Bayaan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayaan and khutbah in English

NB We are only open for Friday prayers – not for the five daily prayers.

In December 2010, the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert**, was closed for renovation by the Auckland City Council. Following these renovations, we believe we are the only jumuah in New Zealand with air-conditioning and heating.

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Swt, saw, as, ra

swt : subhanahu wa ta'ala "Glory to Him, the Exalted" (when mentioning Allah)

saw : salallahu alaihi wassalam "May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him" (when mentioning Muhammad)

as: alaihis salam "Peace be on him" (when mentioning other prophets)

ra : radi allahu anhu/ha/hum "May Allah be pleased with him/her/them" (when mentioning members of Muhammad's family, companions, etc)