



# Rocket Science



Rabial Thani /  
Jumadal A 1435

March 2014

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

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## Muslim converts in Australia

Over 100 people per year are converting to Islam in Sydney, Australia<sup>1</sup>. The Australian New Muslim Association estimates two-thirds of the converts they see each year are female.

One such convert is Julia Moukhallalati who was just 18 when she converted from Orthodox Christianity. She met her Lebanese-Australian husband Raed while asking about halal meat in a restaurant. They married just three months later and live in a granny flat behind her in-laws.

She said her relationship with her family was still a "work in progress". "My parents pushed me to be Orthodox, but they never had answers to my questions," she said, adding she had always been fascinated with Islam, and believed it put women on a pedestal, rather than oppressing them. "As soon as I started studying it, I knew I had to be a part of it. I loved how a woman was treated. She is treated like a rare diamond; she is honoured in the family."

Similar stories – involving disillusionment with Christianity, the treatment of women in society, the binge-drinking culture, etc – are told in a video<sup>2</sup>.

Former surfer Mark Malik Towcock explains, "There is no benefit from drinking (alcohol); there is no benefit from clubbing; there is no benefit from gambling. If anything, staying away from those kind of things, I believe, can fix a lot of the problems that society has."

Another recent Australian convert is professional rugby player Blake Ferguson<sup>3</sup>. Ferguson has had a troubled year in the NRL and many of his off-the-field misdemeanours have been alcohol-related, making his religious conversion a very significant step. He is the cousin of boxer Anthony Mundine, who has been a Muslim for many years. Another Australian NRL convert to Islam is Cory Paterson.

1 Almost two Sydney women a week are converting to Islam. The Telegraph, 19 January 2014, [www.dailytelegraph.com.au](http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au)

2 Young Australians now crossing over to Islam. A Current Affair, 13 February 2014, [aca.ninemsn.com.au/article/8799038/young-australians-now-crossing-over-to-islam](http://aca.ninemsn.com.au/article/8799038/young-australians-now-crossing-over-to-islam)

3 Australian professional rugby player converts to Islam. Press TV, 2 March 2014. [www.presstv.com/detail/2013/11/13/334564/aussie-rugby-player-converts-to-islam](http://www.presstv.com/detail/2013/11/13/334564/aussie-rugby-player-converts-to-islam)



Boxer Anthony Mundine (left) and NRL player Blake Ferguson in Zetland Mosque, Sydney

**20k Muslims  
no mosque**

**historical  
animosity**

**2m Muslims  
four mosques**

## What wasn't reported about the Winter Olympics

Since being awarded the Winter Olympic games in 2007, Sochi has built 442 miles of fiber-optic cables, 200 miles of roads, 55 bridges, 13 train stations, nine hotels for media outlets, six post offices, five schools, a new airport, a \$265 million ski jump, a bobsled track, a ski course, two Olympic villages, and an 815-acre floating archipelago. However, when Sochi's 20,000+ Muslims, most of whom had migrated to the city to help with the construction process, wanted to build a small mosque, they were given the same answer as previous requests: *nyet*<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>. The first request to allow the construction of a mosque in the city was submitted in 1996. It was denied, as have requests almost every year since then. The city's leaders' response is that Sochi's Muslims do not really need a mosque because there is one in the mountain village of Tkhangapsh; however, Tkhangapsh is roughly two and a half hours by road from downtown Sochi; Sochi's brand new light rail line, with its hub at the country's newest, largest train station, doesn't go to Tkhangapsh; and the mosque is a one-room wooden-framed building.

In reality, Sochi's bias against Muslims has historical roots. The Russian government is largely deferential to Islamic customs in historically Muslim areas. However, while Sochi is in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains which have a sizeable Muslim population, a Czarist purge in the 19th century killed hundreds of thousands of ethnically Circassian Muslims and displaced many more. In the 1930s, the last surviving mosque in the region (in Tkhangapsh) was shut down.

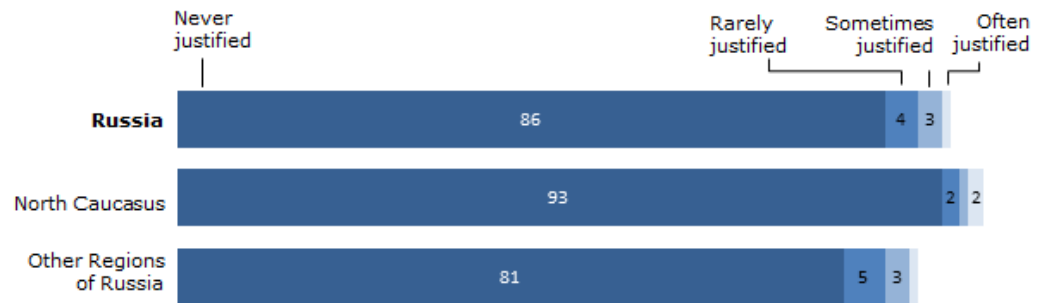
Russia's homophobia (opposition to homosexuality) was severely criticized before the Olympics; almost every Western country decided to take a stand against it, capped by President Barack Obama sending a US delegation led by openly gay athletes. However, Russia's Islamophobia received no media coverage. And Sochi is not the only city in question; Moscow, for example, has over two million Muslims, but just four mosques.

Much was made of the threat of possible terrorism at the Games, and this was often linked to Muslim groups. Another topic that received no media coverage was the findings of a research survey by the Pew Forum that showed that Russian Muslims overwhelmingly rejected suicide bombing and other form of violence against civilians.



## Suicide Bombing Widely Rejected by Russian Muslims

*% of Muslims who say suicide bombing and other forms of violence against civilians in defense of Islam are ...*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER survey of Muslims conducted October 2011-February 2012

1 For Sochi's 20,000+ Muslims, Thanks But No Thanks. International Policy Digest, 25 February 2014. [www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2014/02/25/sochis-20000-muslims-thanks-thanks](http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2014/02/25/sochis-20000-muslims-thanks-thanks)

2 Michael Lipka 'Sochi Olympics shine spotlight on Russia's Muslim population'. Pew Research Center, 7 February 2014. [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/02/07/sochi-olympics-shine-spotlight-on-russias-muslim-population](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/02/07/sochi-olympics-shine-spotlight-on-russias-muslim-population)

3 Tim Murphy 'Why Sochi Has No Mosques' Mother Jones, 5 February 2014. [www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/02/why-sochi-has-no-mosques](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/02/why-sochi-has-no-mosques)

## Ghusl

Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "If you are in state of ceremonial impurity, bathe your whole body" (Surah Al-Mā'idah verse 6). So what is ghusl? When should one perform it? How do you do it? What is forbidden without performing ghusl? This article tries to answer these questions with regard to Quran and sunnah.

### What is ghusl?

Ghusl means to wash your whole body with water.

### What actions require ghusl?

There are four instances which require that a ghusl must be performed:

- Sex, including discharge of al-mani (sperm) or a wet dream (ghusl janabah)
- Women and their period
- Death
- Conversion to Islam

## **What are the acts that are forbidden for the impure?**

There are five acts that are forbidden to do while you are impure. These are:

### **1 Prayer**

### **2 Circumambulating the Kabah**

### **3 Touching or carrying the Quran**

It is generally understood that it is forbidden for one who is impure to touch the Quran. However, there are some jurists such as Dawud ibn Hazm who say that touching a Quran is permissible while impure. The main reason they quote is that

when the Prophet (saw) sent letters to Christians and Non-Muslims to come to the fold of Islam, he included a verse of the Quran in his letter. That is, the Christian and Non-Muslims were allowed to touch letters which contained parts of the Quran.

In response, the majority of scholars say that touching parts of the Quran such as verses in letters, tafsirs, books and so on is allowable as long as it is not the Quran itself. There is nothing to confirm that such action is forbidden.

### **4 Reciting the Quran**

According to most scholars, one who is impure cannot recite the Quran. Ali (ra) related that nothing stopped the Messenger of Allah (swt) from reciting the Quran except when he was impure. Ali also related, "I saw the Messenger of Allah perform ablution and recite some of the Quran, after which he said, 'This is for the one who is not in impurity. If one is impure, he may not do so, not even one verse.'"

### **5 Staying in the mosque**

Staying in the mosque for an impure person (whether due to post-sex impurity or menstruation) is forbidden. This is confirmed by the following hadith:

Aishah (ra) said, "The Messenger of Allah, upon whom be peace, saw that his companions' houses were practically in the mosque. He said, 'Direct those houses away from the mosque.' He then entered the mosque, but the people did nothing, hoping that Allah would reveal to Muhammad that what they were doing was permissible. After he came out, he said, 'Direct those houses away from the mosque, for it is not permitted for a menstruating woman or sexually impure person to be in the mosque'" (related by Abu Dawud).

However, passing through a mosque while in a state of impurity is allowed according to the Quran. In surah An'Nisa verse 43, Allah (swt) says, "O you who have believed, do not approach prayer while you are intoxicated until you know what you are saying or in a state of janabah, except those passing through [a place of prayer], until you have washed [your whole body]." The meaning of this verse is so clear that there is no doubt that one can pass through the mosque while they are impure. However, they are not allowed to stay in the mosque while they are impure, as shown by the hadith quoted earlier.

### **Situations in which ghusl is preferred**

This category refers to actions that will earn reward for performing ghusl but performing a ghusl itself is not compulsory. That is, there is no blame if ghusl



is not performed. There are six situations:

### **1 Before the Friday prayer**

Muslims are highly encouraged to perform ghusl before the Friday prayer. In one instance it is said that performing ghusl before Friday prayer is obligatory (wajib). Abu Saeed reported that the Prophet (saw) said, "Ghusl on Friday is highly recommended on every adult, as is using a toothbrush and applying some perfume." (related by al Bukhari and Muslim).



Once when Umar (ra) was giving the Friday khutbah, Uthman (ra) entered the mosque. Umar said to him, "What time is it now?" He said, "I was busy and could not return home. When I heard the call to prayer, I did not make more than the regular ablution." Umar said, "And the ablution only, when you know that the Messenger of Allah ordered us to perform ghusl?"

Commenting on the incident, ash-Shafii says, "Uthman did not leave the prayer to perform ghusl, nor did Umar order him to do so. This illustrates that the companions knew that this order was one of choice. It also shows that it is preferred."

Muslim (ra) recorded that Abu Hurairah (ra) reported the Prophet (saw) saying, "Whoever makes the ablution (ghusl) and perfects it and then goes to the Friday prayer and listens attentively, will have forgiveness during (the period) between the Friday and the next (Friday), and an additional three days." Al-Qurtubi says, "This hadith shows that ghusl is preferred. The mention of ablution, the reward and acceptability points to the fact that ablution alone is sufficient."

While performing ghusl is not compulsory, if a person is unclean and smells bad, then it is preferred that he performs ghusl before the Friday prayer. This will stop him and others around him from being distracted from the prayer due to bad odour.

The time for Friday ghusl is between dawn and the Friday prayer. It is preferred to do ghusl just before going to the mosque. If the person loses his ablution after making ghusl for the Friday prayer, he does not need to redo his ghusl. Instead, he simply performs a new ablution (wudu).

### **2 Before the Eid Prayers**

While scholars encourage Muslims to make ghusl before the Eid prayers, there are no hadith to support this opinion. It says in al-Badr al-Muneer, "The hadith concerning performing ghusl for the Eids are weak. But there do exist good reports from the companions (on this point)."

### **3 After washing a corpse**

Scholars have said that it is preferred to perform ghusl for one who has washed the corpse. Abu Hurairah (ra) reported that the Prophet (saw) said, "Whoever has washed a corpse must perform ghusl, and whoever carried him must perform ablution



(wudu)" (related by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, atTirmizhi, an-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah and others). However there is some criticism of this hadith. Some have called it not authentic, while others have said that it is most likely to be Hassan (good).

It has been related that Umar (ra) said, "We used to wash the dead. Some of us would perform ghusl and some would not" (related by al-Khateeb with a sahih chain).

#### **4 When performing hajj**

Many scholars have said that it is preferred to do ghusl before starting umrah or hajj. This is based on the observation that Zaid ibn Thabit (ra) saw the Prophet (saw) make ghusl when he (the Prophet, saw) made intention to perform hajj.

#### **5 When entering Makkah**

All the scholars say it is preferred for one to make ghusl before entering Makkah. There is no sin if one does not do ghusl before entering Makkah. Many of the scholars say that ablution (wudu) alone would be sufficient.

#### **6 At Mount Arafah**

It is preferred to do ghusl when stopping at Mount Arafah. Ibn Umar (ra) used to make ghusl at the following three times: before starting hajj, when entering Makkah and at Mount Arafah.

#### **So how does one make ghusl?**

The law requires just two things to perform ghusl.

##### **1 The intention**

The one who wishes to make ghusl must make an intention (niyah) that they intend to perform ghusl. This will separate out his ghusl from his daily customary acts such as having a daily bath.

##### **2 Wash all the bodily parts**

Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "If you are sexually impure, cleanse yourselves," (surah al-Maidah, verse 6), that is, perform ghusl, and "They ask you concerning menstruation. Say: 'It is an illness, so leave women alone at such times and go not in unto them until they are cleansed,'" (surah Al-Baqarah, verse 222), that is, until they perform ghusl.

The proof that cleansing means ghusl is in the verse, "O you who believe, draw not unto the prayer when you are drunk until you know what you utter, nor when you are polluted, save when journeying upon the road, until you have bathed (taghtasilu)" (surah An-Nisaa verse 43). This shows that ghusl, the washing of all bodily parts, is meant.

In summary, this article has explained what ghusl is, when one should do it and how to do it with references to Quran and sunnah.



# Showing off (ar-riya)

Allah (swt) has blessed you with beautiful children, a good spouse, enough wealth to go on all the holidays you like, a vehicle each for you and your spouse, a good job, and on top of that, you are always involved in voluntary community work. How many of us are in this state? If not all, most of us have been blessed with at least most of the above. Imagine then, after a day of hard work as a volunteer (working with the intention of pleasing Allah, swt), you then put up your photo volunteering on Facebook. Is this ar-riya? The answer lies in the hadith below:



*actions by  
intention*

Umar bin Al-Khattab (ra) said he heard the messenger of Allah (saw) say, "Actions are but by intention and every man shall have but that which he intended. Thus he whose migration was for Allah and His messenger, his migration was for Allah and His messenger; and he whose migration was to achieve some worldly benefit or to take some woman in marriage, his migration was for that for which he migrated" (Bukhari and Muslim).

Thus, if the intention of posting on Facebook was to show off to the many friends that you are doing charity, then the reward for it will be for showing off. On the other hand, if the intention was to publicise the cause so others would join in volunteering or to donate to the cause – then the reward is for that sake.

In another hadith, the Prophet (saw) says about the reward of showing off, "Verily, what I fear most for you is the lesser idolatry." And he elaborated, "It is showing off. Allah the Exalted will say to them (who show off), on the Day of Resurrection when the people are being rewarded for their deeds, 'Go to those whom you wished to show off to in the world and look for your reward with them'" (Ahmad).

Would we want our hard-earned deeds to be wasted away just because we showed it off to the people of the dunya? Wouldn't the reward of hiding the charity be much better?

Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "So woe unto those performers of salat (hypocrites), those who delay their salat (from their stated fixed times), those who do good deeds only to be seen (of men), and prevent small kindnesses (al-maun)" (Surah Al-Maun 107: 4 – 7). Allah (swt) is addressing us to be aware of what good deeds we do in front of men. Shouldn't we then be even more careful of what we publicise?

*to be seen*

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri (ra) reported, "The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, entered upon us while we were discussing the False Messiah. The Prophet said, 'Shall I not tell you about what I fear for you more than the presence of the False Messiah?' We said, 'Of course!' The Prophet said, 'Hidden idolatry; that a man stands for prayer and beautifies his prayer because he sees another man looking at him' (ibn Majah).

The extent to which one is punished from 'showing off' is discussed in the hadith below. The seriousness of it should bring fear to our hearts in the deeds that we do.

Sulaiman ibn Yasar reported, "People dispersed from around Abu Huraira, and Natil from the people of Syria said to him, 'O Sheikh, narrate to us a saying you have heard from the Messenger of Allah.' He said, 'Yes, I heard the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, say, "Verily, the first of

**martyrdom**

**knowledge**

**abundance**

people to have their case judged on the Day of Resurrection will be a man who was martyred. He will be brought and Allah's blessings will be made known and he will recognise them. Allah will say, 'What have you done concerning these blessings?' The man will say 'I fought in your cause until I was martyred.' Allah will say, 'You have lied because you fought so that it would be said how courageous you are, and it was said.' Then Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face into the Hellfire. Another man learned religious knowledge, taught others, and recited the Quran. He will be brought and Allah's blessings will be made known and he will recognise them. Allah will say, 'What have you done concerning these blessings?' The man will say 'I learned religious knowledge, taught others, and I recited the Quran for Your sake.' Allah will say, 'You have lied because you learned religious knowledge so that it would be said you are a scholar and you recited the Quran so that it would be said you are a reciter, and it was said.' Then Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face into the Hellfire. Another man was given an abundance from Allah and was given every kind of wealth. He will be brought and Allah's blessings will be made known and he will recognise them. Allah will say 'What have you done concerning these blessings?' The man will say, 'I spent money in every cause upon which You wished it to be spent.' Allah will say, 'You have lied because you spent money so that it would be said how generous you are, and it was said.' Then Allah will order him to be dragged upon his face into the Hellfire"" (Muslim).

In all of these hadith, the interesting thing is that the man in question is doing all the good deeds. Nevertheless, his good deeds are not rewarding him in the eyes of Allah (swt).

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri reported "The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, 'Whoever desires only to be seen by people, then Allah will make him seen, and whoever desires only to be heard by people, then Allah will make him heard.' And he said, 'Whoever is not merciful to people, then Allah is not merciful to him'" (At-Tirmidhi).



Let us always check our intentions before, during and after doing a good deed. Let us be sincere in the deeds we do only to please Allah (swt).

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "The slightest bit of showing off in good works is as if worshipping others with Allah" (Hakim).

Let us recite the supplication against showing off that was taught by the Prophet (saw) to safeguard ourselves from Hellfire and to ensure our good deeds aren't wasted:

Allahumma inni a`udhu bika an ushrika bika wa ana a`lamu wa astaghfiruka lima la a`lamu

"O Allaah, I take refuge in You lest I should commit shirk with You knowingly and I seek Your forgiveness for what I do unknowingly."

**shirk**



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# 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 dawah and deen-al-Islam (the Islamic faith/way of life).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- SKYTV CH 83 (Face TV) in New Zealand (11.30am Sat)
- CTV in Christchurch (see TV guide for times)
- Channel 9 in Dunedin (see TV guide for times)
- MAITV in Fiji (see TV guide for times)
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

## 1 March

Quran 3: 16-18 – those of knowledge.

LECTURE: The importance of knowledge by Imam Afroz Ali.

DOCUMENTARY: For men of understanding 3 – masters of camouflage part 1 by Harun Yahya

My Path to Islam: by Jeremiah Taylor.

## 8 March

Quran 51: 56-60 – the purpose of life.

LECTURE: How to obtain contentment by Abdul Hakim Quick.

DOCUMENTARY: For men of understanding 3 – masters of camouflage part 2 by Harun Yahya

## 15 March

Quran 105: 1-5 the elephant.

LECTURE: Explanation of chapter 105 of Quran (the elephant) by Abu Hamzah.

DOCUMENTARY: For men of understanding 3 – masters of camouflage part 3 by Harun Yahya

TID BITS: Deen – a way of life by Sheikh Yusuf Estes.

## 22 March

Quran 2: 21-23 worship.

LECTURE: Great acts of worship 1 by Waleed A. Hakim.

DOCUMENTARY: The secret of the test part 1 by Harun Yahya

TID BITS: Islam by Sheikh Yusuf Estes.

## 29 March

Quran 2: 21-23 worship.

LECTURE: Great acts of worship 2 by Navaid Azeez.

DOCUMENTARY: The secret of the test part 2 by Harun Yahya

FEATURE: Gratitude to God by Imam Afroz Ali.

NASHEED: Why should I whine.

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: [www.voitv.org](http://www.voitv.org)



## Auckland prayer timetable for March 2014

(from [www.islamicFinder.org](http://www.islamicFinder.org). For other cities in New Zealand, see [www.fianz.co.nz](http://www.fianz.co.nz)).

*“Allah’s Apostle used to offer the fajr prayer, and some believing women covered with their veiling sheets used to attend the fajr prayer with him, and then they would return to their homes unrecognized.” (hadith)*

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	5:37	7:05	1:34	5:12	6:10	8:01	9:25
2	5:38	7:06	1:34	5:11	6:09	8:00	9:24
3	5:39	7:07	1:33	5:10	6:08	7:58	9:22
4	5:40	7:08	1:33	5:10	6:06	7:57	9:21
5	5:40	7:08	1:33	5:10	6:06	7:57	9:21
6	5:42	7:09	1:33	5:09	6:05	7:55	9:19
7	5:44	7:11	1:33	5:07	6:03	7:53	9:16
8	5:45	7:12	1:32	5:07	6:02	7:51	9:14
9	5:46	7:13	1:32	5:06	6:01	7:50	9:13
10	5:47	7:14	1:32	5:05	6:00	7:48	9:11
11	5:48	7:15	1:32	5:04	5:59	7:47	9:09
12	5:50	7:16	1:31	5:03	5:58	7:45	9:08
13	5:51	7:16	1:31	5:02	5:56	7:44	9:06
14	5:52	7:17	1:31	5:01	5:55	7:42	9:05
15	5:53	7:18	1:30	5:01	5:54	7:41	9:03
16	5:54	7:19	1:30	5:00	5:53	7:39	9:01
17	5:55	7:20	1:30	4:59	5:52	7:38	9:00
18	5:56	7:21	1:30	4:58	5:51	7:37	8:58
19	5:56	7:21	1:30	4:58	5:51	7:37	8:58
20	5:57	7:22	1:29	4:57	5:49	7:35	8:57
21	5:59	7:24	1:29	4:55	5:47	7:32	8:53
22	6:00	7:25	1:29	4:54	5:46	7:32	8:52
23	6:01	7:25	1:28	4:53	5:45	7:31	8:51
24	6:02	7:26	1:28	4:52	5:43	7:29	8:49
25	6:03	7:27	1:28	4:51	5:42	7:28	8:48
26	6:04	7:28	1:27	4:50	5:41	7:26	8:46
27	6:05	7:29	1:27	4:49	5:40	7:25	8:44
28	6:06	7:30	1:27	4:48	5:38	7:23	8:43
29	6:07	7:31	1:27	4:47	5:37	7:22	8:41
30	6:08	7:32	1:26	4:46	5:36	7:20	8:40
31	6:08	7:32	1:26	4:45	5:35	7:19	8:38

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

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Editor in chief: Dr Adam Brown

Board members / writers: Azoora Ali, Tazkiya Ali, Nishaad

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**Postal Address:** P O Box 16138, Sandringham, Auckland

**Phone:** (+64)(9) 629 4222

**Email:** mtalbertmasjid@gmail.com

**Website:** www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org

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- ✓ 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)