

## Inside this issue

FIANZ guidelines .....	5
The Kaaba, before and after ...	8
Sadio Mané .....	9
Voice Of Islam .....	10
Prayer timetable .....	11

# Rocket Science

June 2020

Shawwal / Thul Qaidah 1441



In the name of Allah,  
most Gracious, most Merciful

## Showing affection towards children

The signs of mercy of Prophet Muhammad (saw) cannot be counted. He taught us that our lot from the mercy of Allah (swt) is based on the mercy reflected in our hearts and actions towards His creations. The Prophet (saw) was especially affectionate and merciful towards children. This article discusses the prophetic habit of showing affection towards children, with quotations from the hadiths.

### Prophetic habit

A famous hadith, coincidentally used in the last issue of *Rocket Science*, illustrates the attitude of the Prophet (saw) and Allah (swt) towards showing affection to children. The Prophet (saw) kissed his grandson Hasan bin Ali in the presence of Aqra bin Habis. Thereupon Aqra remarked, "I have ten children and I have never kissed any one of them." The Messenger of Allah (saw) cast a glance upon him and said, "He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy."

This hadith shows us that, even though it was not the norm in the time to show affection towards children, Muhammad (saw) still did so.

In another hadith, Aisha (ra) reported that there came a few desert Arabs to Allah's Messenger (saw) and said, "Do you kiss your children?" The Prophet (saw) said, "Yes." Thereupon they said, "By Allah, but we do not kiss our children." Thereupon Allah's Messenger (saw) said, "Then what can I do, if Allah has deprived you of mercy?" (Muslim).

The sunnah of the Prophet (saw) in these hadiths exemplifies the impact that expressing love and mercy has. In today's environment, some people may feel that such affection is not necessary as a means to show love. But how would the child know?



There are many hadiths recording that Prophet Muhammad (saw) loved his children, his grandchildren, and other children.

"Allah's Messenger (saw) took Ibrahim [his son] and kissed him and smelled him" (Bukhari).

"Al-Hasan bin Ali (ra) [his grandson] got up and started walking with a necklace (of beads) around his neck. The Prophet (saw) stretched his hand out like this, and Al-Hasan did the same. The Prophet embraced him and said, 'O Allah! I love him, so please love him and love those who love him'" (Bukhari).

Usama bin Zaid reported, "Allah's Messenger (saw) used to put me on (one of) his thighs and put Al-Hasan bin Ali on his other thigh, and then embrace us and say, 'O Allah! Please be Merciful to them, as I am merciful to them'" (Bukhari).

Similarly, many hadiths show Muhammad (saw) reacting playfully with young children.

Mahmud bin Rabia reported, "When I was a boy of five, I remember the Prophet (saw) took water from a bucket (used for getting water out of a well) with his mouth and threw it on my face" (Bukhari).

The love and mercy of Prophet Muhammad (saw) is also shown in various hadiths relating to prayer time.

Abdullah bin Shaddad narrated that his father reported, "The Messenger of Allah (saw) came out to us for one of the night-time prayers, and he was carrying Hasan or Husain. The Messenger of Allah (saw) came forward and put him down, then he said the Takbir and started to pray. He prostrated during his prayer, and made the prostration lengthy. I raised my head and saw the child on the back of the Messenger of Allah (saw) while he was prostrating so I went back to my prostration. When the Messenger of Allah (saw) finished praying, the people said, 'O Messenger of Allah (saw), you prostrated during the prayer for so long that we thought that something had happened or that you were receiving a revelation.' He said, 'No such thing happened. But my son was riding on my back and I did not like to disturb him until he had enough'" (an-Nasai).



"The Messenger of Allah came towards us while carrying Umamah the daughter of Abi Al-As [the Prophet's granddaughter] over his shoulder. He prayed, and when he wanted to bow, he put her down. When he stood up, he lifted her up" (Al-Bukhari).

The Prophet said, "(It happens that) I start the prayer intending to prolong it, but on hearing the cries of a child, I shorten the prayer because I know that the cries of the child will incite its mother's passions" (Al-Bukhari).

#### **Benefit to society**

There is an overall benefit to society through empowering the individual, the family unit, and strengthening the relations they



will have in future. Sadly, nowadays an expression of mercy or love to someone is seen a sign of weakness, being naïve, or "soft". The Prophet (saw) teaches us that not only is this empowering but it is also beloved to Allah (swt).

It is important, in the current times when the fabric of family life is falling apart, that we tell our children that we love them. This is something unfortunately heard less and less by our youth from their loved ones.

While cultivating confidence and physical strength in children is important, we should know that emotional support is equally important. Expressing love and mercy to our children influences the children and their long-term cultivation.

Cornel West is an American philosopher, political activist, social critic, author, and public intellectual. At the Harvard Divinity School 2017 convocation, he famously said, "I am who I am because somebody loved me, somebody cared for me, and somebody attended to me. I'll never, ever forget it."

Similarly, an African proverb states, "If the youth are not properly initiated into the village, they will burn it down just to feel its warmth."

Another African proverb, nowadays heard in English-speaking societies, is, "It takes a village to raise a child."

It is an often-quoted lament that nowadays many people lack parenting skills. Every day, we see stories of people who do terrible things and hurt people. However, when we investigate their childhood, we discover that many of them came from broken homes or were abused. Children internalise the stress of their homes.

### **Conclusion**

We should not be afraid to show mercy or love to any of the creations of Allah (swt). This is especially important in relation to our own family, spouses and children. Allah (swt) does not withhold from showing His mercy or love for us.

We should radiate mercy into the world, whether it be forgiving those who wronged us, reconciling

with those who cut ties, smiling at those who frown, etc. When we do so, we will be given mercy by Allah (swt) and it will be a means of bettering society.

When the Prophet (saw) showed mercy, his actions never diminished his rank, status, or mercy.

We need to show through our own example how Islam empowered us. Only then can we empower our children with Islam.

Every day, without fail, we should kiss and tell our children or spouses, no matter how old or young, that we love them. Prove this verbal statement through action. Doing so will make us followers of the sunnah and recipients of Allah's mercy.

A final hadith showing that this is a requirement of all Muslims: "He who does not show mercy to our young ones or recognise the rights of our elders is not one of us" (Ahmad).



## FIANZ / government guidelines

The next pages give official documents from FIANZ, based on government guidelines, for the conduct of prayers and funerals during Alert Level 2. These guidelines may, of course, change if we move to Level 1, or the government relaxes them. The bottom line is that we must all do our part and take sensible precautions, to ensure that COVID-19 does not flare up again.



THE FEDERATION OF  
ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS  
OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)  
الاتحاد الإسلامي الإيماني النيوزيلندي

SINCE 1970

### Guidelines for mosques at Alert Level 2

The rules under Alert Level 2 allow us to open mosques and offer regular and tarawih prayers, but ensure the gathering is not larger than 10. We must do so safely following instructions regarding maintaining social distance at all times. Jumu'ah and Eid prayers are not possible at this level under current restrictions.

**Clean the mosque**

COVID-19 is spread by droplets. When an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, they may spray droplets containing the virus. These droplets quickly settle on surrounding surfaces. COVID-19 can live on plastic and stainless steel for up to about three days, less than that on other surfaces.

Visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned first, using an anti-viral disinfectant. Before and after prayers, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as taps and door handles.

Leave doors open so people do not need to touch them when entering and leaving the mosque.

**Ask people...**

- Wudu before coming to mosque
- Bring your own prayer mat
- Avoid hugging or shaking hands
- Bring your own Qur'an if desired
- Cough into your elbow
- Leave the mosque promptly after prayers
- Do not gather in groups on the pavement

**Restrict the numbers**

There can be strictly no more than 10 people in any gathering, whether inside a mosque or outdoors.

**Note who is present**

We recommend that mosque managements arrange to collect basic information on those in the mosque on each occasion in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

T: +64 4 387 8023 | F: +64 4 387 8024 | 7-11 Queens Drive, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6022  
info@fianz.com | [www.fianz.com](http://www.fianz.com) | PO Box 14155, Wellington 6241, New Zealand



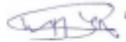
**Maintain social distancing**

- Outside, stay two metres from people you do not know
- Inside (including when praying), stay one metre away from the people around you
- Inside or out, take extra care if you interact with people you don't know as it won't be easy to do contact tracing if necessary

**Ask at-risk people to stay home**

Some people are at higher risk of COVID-19. They should not attend the mosque during this period.

- Anyone over 70, regardless of their health
- Other older people with underlying health issues, especially respiratory conditions
- People of any age with underlying medical conditions that include:
  - serious respiratory disease such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - serious heart conditions
  - immunocompromised conditions (cancer treatment, prolonged use of corticosteroids etc)
  - severe obesity (BMI over 40)
  - diabetes
  - chronic kidney disease
  - people undergoing dialysis
  - liver disease.



Mohammed Farouk Khan  
President FIANZ



15 May 2020

FIANZ announcement regarding Janazahs

Assalaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

Health Minister David Clark has announced that under Level 2 rules up to 50 people can attend funerals (janazahs) as long as the Ministry of Health is satisfied that a range of public health measures can consistently be met.

This means that janazahs can be held for Muslims who have passed on but the numbers attending must be restricted to 50. Physical distancing must be maintained, even while performing salah janazah.

Funeral organisers will need to fill out a form to register funerals with the Ministry of Health and declare that health requirements have been met. They include physical distancing, hand hygiene and no food and drink congregations afterwards.

FIANZ strongly recommends that organisers of funerals draw up contact lists of everyone attending.

The easing of the rules from 10 to 50 permitted to attend funerals comes with a warning from the Minister: "Around the world we have seen the virus spread at funerals as well as a second wave of infection taking hold just as countries were getting on top of the virus, like we are now."

Everyone therefore needs to observe the rules. Most importantly, do not attend a janazah if you are feeling unwell, if you are over the age of 70, or if you are immunocompromised.

Mohammed Farouk Khan  
President FIANZ

T. +64 4 387 8023 | F. +64 4 387 8024  
info@fianz.com | www.fianz.com

7-11 Queens Drive, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6022  
PO Box 14155, Wellington 6241, New Zealand



fianz.nz



fianz\_nz



fianz

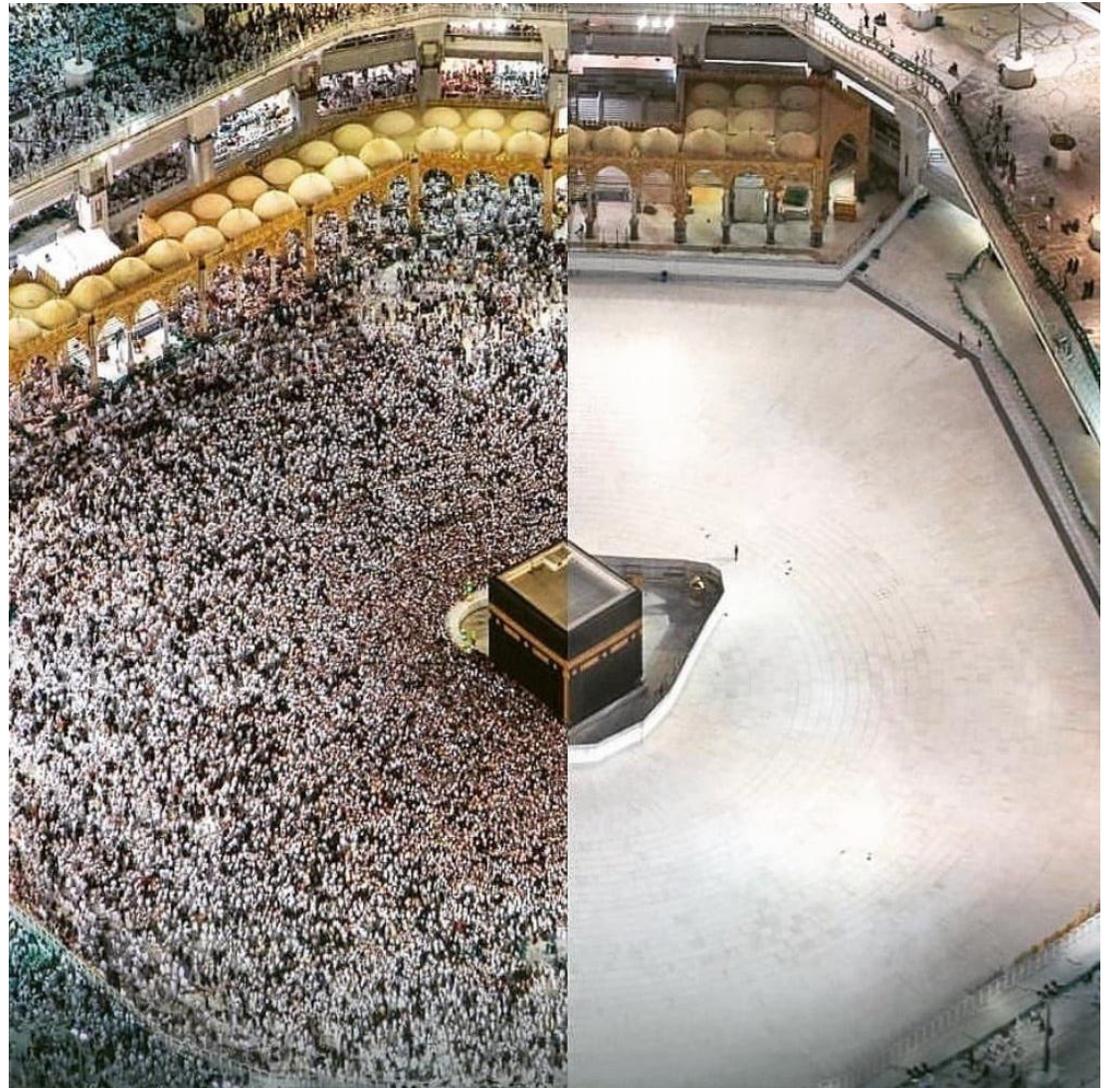


www.fianz.com

## The Kaaba, before and after

Usually, the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah is chock-a-block with worshippers, especially during hajj, Ramadan and Friday prayers. However, like other public areas around the world, it has been closed because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

This remarkable half-and-half picture shows the difference in the courtyard surrounding the Kaaba between normal times (left) and during the lockdown (right). The whole masjid has also been deep-cleaned, in preparation for when lockdown conditions are lifted, insha Allah.



## EPL star's rags to riches story, with charity

Sadio Mané is a Senegalese footballer, well known as a striker for Liverpool. However, he has had to work hard to get where he is today. In a new documentary<sup>1</sup>, he describes his humble beginnings in the village of Bambali, near the southern border with Guinea-Bissau. His father was an imam.

"I was seven years old. We were about to play on the field when a cousin approached me and said, 'Sadio, your father passed away.' I replied, 'Oh really? He's joking ...' I couldn't really understand it."

"Before he passed away, he had this kind of sickness for weeks. We brought him some traditional medicine and it kept him calm for three or four months. The sickness came back but this time the medicine didn't work and because there was no hospital in Bambali they had to take him to the next village to see if they could save his life. But it was not the case.

"When I was young, my dad was always saying how proud he was of me. He was a man with a big heart. When he died, it had a big impact on me and the rest of my family. I said to myself, 'Now I have to do my best to help my mother.' That's a hard thing to deal with when you are so young."

So, in 2019, he built a school in the village, because he strongly believes that "education is the key. School comes first."

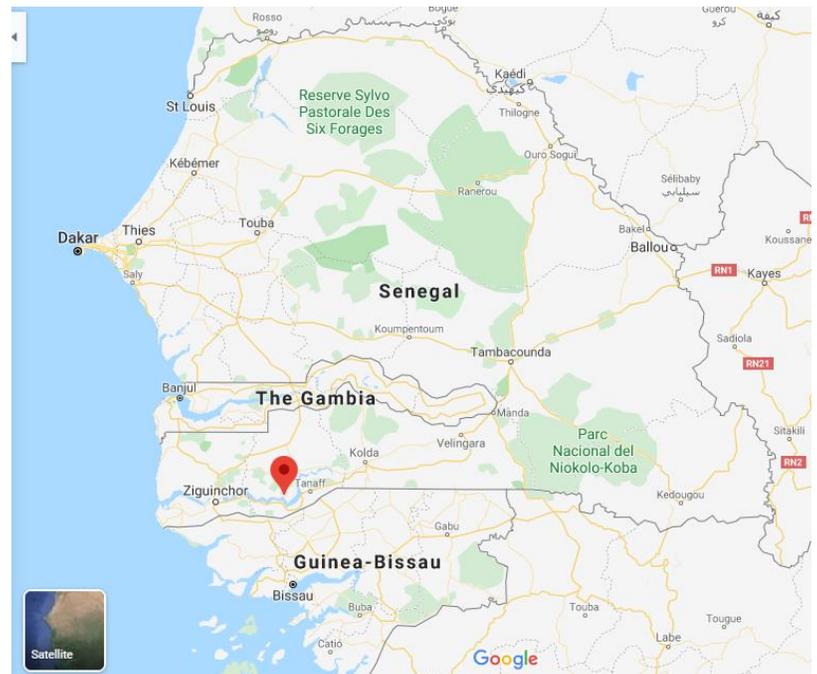
This year, he is building a hospital, because "You should be in good health before you go to work, so let's finish the hospital." The lack of a hospital also affected his sister. "I remember my sister was also born at home because there is no hospital in our village. It was a really, really sad situation for everyone. I wanted to build one to give people hope."

He has also contributed £40,000 to the Senegal government to help fight coronavirus.

May Allah (swt) reward him for his philanthropy.



1 Ed Aarons. "Sadio Mané: 'I wanted to build a hospital to give people hope.'" *The Guardian*, 8 April. [www.theguardian.com/football/2020/apr/08/sadio-mane-documentary-made-in-senegal-liverpool](http://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/apr/08/sadio-mane-documentary-made-in-senegal-liverpool)





Nouman Ali Khan

## 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). VOI television is broadcast on APNA TV (Freeview channel 36)(10.30 am Sun). In order to save costs, it now only broadcasts on APNA TV. However, Voice of Islam programmes are available on YouTube.

### 7 June

Quran: 18: 107-110 Al Kahf 1. God has no partners.  
 Animation clip 48. What is Quran al-Fajr?  
 Islamophobia 1: 17 Jihad & Terrorism part 1.  
 Fasting 6 days of Shawwal.  
 Al Baqarah series 08: Allah's love for humanity. Nouman Ali Khan.  
 Q&A 14: Is animal suffering in the world just? Shabir Ally.  
 Doco: Scientific miracles of the Quran 1 part 2.  
 People of Quran 01: Al Fatihah – the cure. Omar Suleiman.

### 14 June

Quran: 18: 107-110 Al Kahf 1. God has no partners.  
 Animation clip 49: What is the effect of bad intentions?  
 Islamophobia 1: 18 Jihad & Terrorism part 2.  
 Fasting 6 days of Shawwal.  
 Overcoming laziness.  
 Al Baqarah series 10: The challenge of Quran. Nouman Ali Khan.  
 Doco: Scientific miracles of the Quran 1 part 3.  
 People of Quran 02: Breaking bottles. Omar Suleiman.  
 Why I wear hijab.

### 21 June

Quran: 18: 107-110 Al Kahf 1. God has no partners.  
 Animation clip 50: What is the importance of Fajr & Isha salat?  
 Islamophobia 1: 19. Polygamy.  
 Improve your prayer.  
 Al Baqarah series 11: Finding your way back to Allah. Nouman Ali Khan.  
 People of Quran 04: Almost divorced. Omar Suleiman.  
 Doco: Scientific miracles of the Quran 1 part 4.  
 Q&A 02: What is hadith & its role? Shabir Ally.

### 28 June

Quran: 18: 107-110 Al Kahf 1. God has no partners.  
 Animation clip 51: What is the meaning of Bismillah?  
 Islamophobia 1: 20 Violence in the Quran & Sunnah.  
 Does God exist?  
 Al Baqarah series 11: Finding your way back to Allah. Nouman Ali Khan.  
 Doco: Scientific miracles of the Quran 1 part 5.  
 People of Quran 05: The back breaker.  
 Q&A 17: Prayer in English. Shabir Ally.

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

## Auckland prayer timetable for June 2020

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

Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Thuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	05:54	07:24	12:19	02:55	03:34	05:13	06:40
2	05:54	07:25	12:19	02:54	03:34	05:13	06:40
3	05:55	07:26	12:20	02:54	03:33	05:13	06:39
4	05:55	07:26	12:20	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
5	05:56	07:27	12:20	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
6	05:56	07:27	12:20	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
7	05:57	07:28	12:20	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
8	05:57	07:28	12:21	02:53	03:32	05:12	06:39
9	05:57	07:29	12:21	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
10	05:58	07:29	12:21	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
11	05:58	07:30	12:21	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
12	05:59	07:30	12:21	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
13	05:59	07:31	12:22	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
14	05:59	07:31	12:22	02:53	03:32	05:11	06:39
15	06:00	07:32	12:22	02:54	03:32	05:11	06:39
16	06:00	07:32	12:22	02:54	03:32	05:11	06:39
17	06:00	07:32	12:22	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
18	06:01	07:33	12:23	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:39
19	06:01	07:33	12:23	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:40
20	06:01	07:33	12:23	02:54	03:33	05:12	06:40
21	06:01	07:33	12:23	02:55	03:33	05:12	06:40
22	06:01	07:33	12:23	02:55	03:33	05:12	06:40
23	06:02	07:34	12:24	02:55	03:34	05:13	06:41
24	06:02	07:34	12:24	02:55	03:34	05:13	06:41
25	06:02	07:34	12:24	02:56	03:34	05:13	06:41
26	06:02	07:34	12:24	02:56	03:35	05:14	06:41
27	06:02	07:34	12:25	02:56	03:35	05:14	06:42
28	06:02	07:34	12:25	02:57	03:35	05:14	06:42
29	06:02	07:34	12:25	02:57	03:36	05:15	06:43
30	06:02	07:34	12:25	02:57	03:36	05:15	06:43

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

"Once, the Messenger of Allah said to his Companions, "Pray as follows 'O Allah! Do not make anybody among the rebellious and deprived people.'" Then, he asked, "Do you know who is rebellious and deprived?" The Companions said, "Who? O Messenger of Allah!" The Prophet said, "He who does not perform prayers!" (Hadith)

## Credits

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

### **Rocket Science editorial board**

Editor in chief: Dr Adam Brown

Board members / writers: Dr Sharif M A Fattah, Sheed Ali, Idjaz Sheriff, Azoora Ali, Tazkiya Ali

Circulation manager: Sharif Nazre Hannan Saadi

**Disclaimer:** Any material or information posted on the *Rocket Science* mailing list is the sole responsibility of the writer or contributor. The Mount Albert Masjid Board of Trustees, *Rocket Science* list owner, moderator(s) and editor(s) have no obligation to, and may not, review or agree with any item of material or information that anyone makes available through the *Rocket Science* list, and the Mount Albert Masjid Board of Trustees, *Rocket Science* list owner, moderator(s) and editor(s) are not responsible for any content of the material or information.

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

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

**Email:** mtalbertmasjid@gmail.com

**Website:** www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org

<b>Bank</b>	Kiwibank
<b>Branch</b>	St Lukes
<b>Address</b>	Shop 791 Westfield Shopping Ctr, St Lukes, Auckland 1025
<b>Bank phone</b>	(+64)(9) 846 3887
<b>Account name</b>	Mount Albert Islamic Trust
<b>Account no</b>	38-9009-0739910-01

## Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

Prayers are held at the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert.**

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Heating and air-conditioning
- ✓ Bayan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayans and khutbahs in English

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

## Subscribing / unsubscribing

If you have received this newsletter and want to unsubscribe (ie do not want to receive future issues), please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Vice versa, if you have received this newsletter indirectly, and would like to have future issues sent to your email address each month, please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

## Back issues of *Rocket Science*

Missed an issue of *Rocket Science*? All our monthly issues are available online at the Mount Albert Islamic Trust website: [www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org](http://www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org)

## ***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)