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Rocket Science

May 2020

Ramadan / Shawwal 1441



In the name of Allah,
most Gracious, most Merciful

Eid mubarak!

Most of us are probably in a subdued mood because of the lockdown for COVID-19. The mosques are shut, so we can't go for communal prayers, including Friday prayers. It is Ramadan, but we can't go to the mosque for communal prayers, including Tarawih, or i'tikaf. At the end of Ramadan, we can't celebrate Eid ul-Fitr communally. However, we can do many of these things at home during lockdown. Also, we have more free time to do them, and more (see the next article).

Insha Allah, Eid ul-Fitr will fall around 24 May (subject to confirmation). All of us at *Rocket Science* and the Mount Albert Islamic Trust wish all our readers "Ramadan Mubarak!" and "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 Eid ul-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 *dahr* (the whole year or possibly forever)." (Narrated by Muslim, Abu Dawood, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nisaa'i and Ibn Maajah)

FASTING 6 DAYS OF SHAWAAL

"EVERY DEED OF MAN WILL RECEIVE TEN TO 700 TIMES REWARD [MUSLIM]

SO,

30 DAYS X 10 = 300 DAYS

6 DAYS X 10 = 60 DAYS

360 DAYS = 1 YEAR

"WHOEVER FASTS RAMADAAN AND FOLLOWS IT WITH SIX DAYS OF SHAWWAAL, IT WILL BE AS IF HE FASTED FOR A WHOLE YEAR." [MUSLIM]

Ramadan during lockdown

Each year, we all look forward to the month of Ramadan and to Eid ul-Fitr. However, this year we are compelled to have a completely different experience.

A few weeks from now we will still most likely be under some level of lockdown that will not allow mass congregations. So, the mosques will not be open, unless something changes dramatically. Considering how recent the pandemic situation is, it would also not be wise to just join big groups in prayer knowing there may be those amongst us who can have the virus without knowing it, thereby putting a large number of fellow Muslims at risk of contracting the illness.

Considering the circumstances, we are forced to find alternative ways of keeping our iman strong and finding the usual peace and enjoyment in Ramadan, without the tarawih at a masjid or community iftars that we might have been looking forward to throughout the year. For a lot of us it is a very foreign experience as, growing up in a Muslim environment, the gatherings and congregational prayers are part of our annual Ramadan routines.

In such unusual circumstances, we should remind ourselves that, at the time of the Prophet (saw), Ramadan did not look the way it does today. So we should remember that we can take the example and go through our Ramadan just the way our Prophet (saw) and his companions (ra) did.

So how did Ramadan differ from what we are used to today?

There were two major differences from what we know the month of fasting to be today:

- There were no community or group iftars. Instead, everyone ate individually, as there was no surplus of food that would allow for such gatherings to happen.
- During the time of the Prophet (saw), the Sahabas themselves (ra) did not pray tarawih in a congregation (jamaah). Rather, the Isha prayer was performed together at a masjid, and then the Qiyam prayers were done at home individually.



How can we take advantage of the lockdown during Ramadan based on the example of the times of the Prophet (saw)?

1 Praying together

For those of us blessed with families, we have the opportunity to pray Isha and Tarawih together with our families, which will bring us closer to the feeling of the Tarawih at a masjid that we are used to. It will also give us a great opportunity to revise the surahs of the Quran we already know but rarely recite in our daily prayers, as the 20 rakah give us plenty of opportunity for that.

One may ask, "What if I don't know any surahs just yet?", which may be the case of many new Muslim converts. Or perhaps you only know a few short surahs. According to a number of classical schools of thought within fiqh, we are allowed to hold a copy of the Quran (mus-haf) while performing nafil prayers, which includes Tarawih, so that we are able to read the surahs out in salah. Not knowing the Arabic language can also be overcome by using a Quran that contains the transliteration of the surah.

Aishah (ra) had a slave who used to lead her in prayer in Ramadan, reading from the mus-haf (narrated by al-Bukhari).

We are also allowed to repeat the surahs we know, in each rakah, while performing Tarawih. Therefore we shouldn't worry if our knowledge of the Quran is limited.

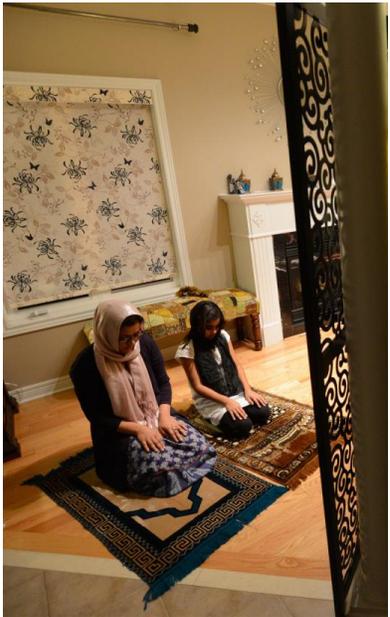
Working from home during lockdown can give us the opportunity to pray regular night prayer (Tahajjud) or perform

sunnah prayers during the last third of the night, as we are less time-constrained and our schedules are more flexible.

2 Organise daily Quran circles at home

We can plan different activities daily, or create regular schedules where we learn about Islam on a daily basis along with our family members, be it a study of tafsir, a hadith or watching a lecture together and discussing it.

There are a number of Ramadan planners that we can buy or find free online in an electronic version which can help us with those activities, not only to keep us accountable on a regular basis, but also to look forward to writing about a different activity each day. This can be a great encouragement for the younger generation especially.



Finally, we have to remember that in every single disaster and calamity there is a blessing that we may not initially realise or see. However, as believers we should look for the good and positive sides to the situation we have been placed in by Allah (swt).

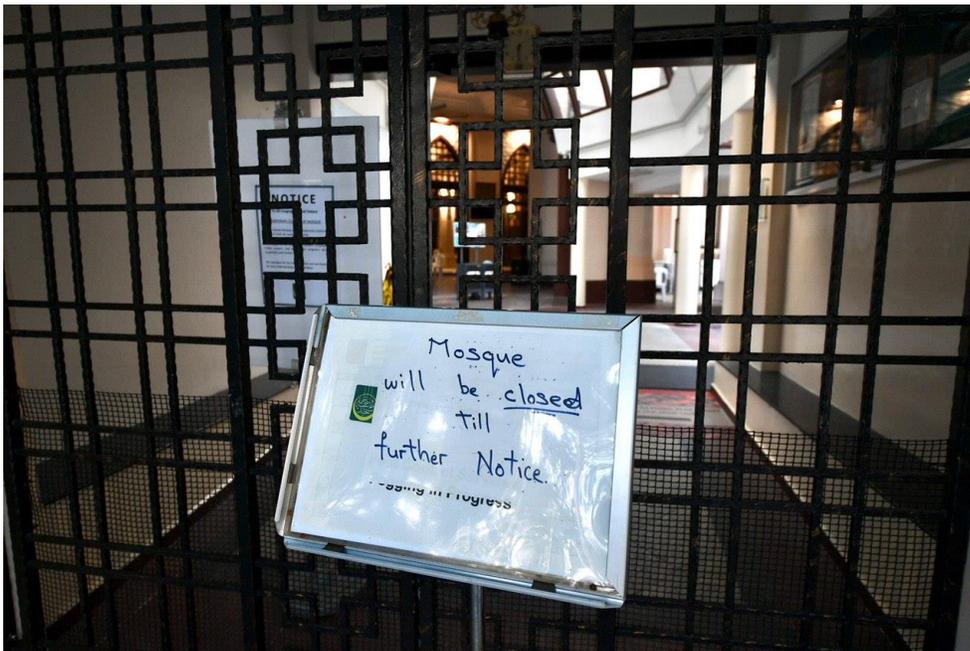
Having to stay at home during this year's Ramadan not only helps us appreciate the past Ramadans when we had the chance to perform our Tarawih at the masjid or eat our iftars with our friends and communities, but will also teach us to appreciate the Ramadans in years to come when the lockdown is over, insha Allah. We will always be able to look back and remember the limitations we had during those testing times, and maybe just push ourselves a little harder if we feel a little lazy or too

tired to attend the congregational prayer one day.

What we also have to remember is that by staying at home we are contributing towards saving other peoples' lives, which is our duty as Muslims and which is stated in the Quran as a reminder for all of us.

"Because of that We ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone killed a person not in retaliation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land – it would be as if he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind" (Surah al Maidah 5:32).

We ask Allah (swt) to provide a cure for the sick, accept our deeds this Ramadan and guide us to the straight path.



Things to be grateful for, in lockdown

Many people are complaining that life during lockdown is "boring". At the other extreme, many people are really enjoying it.

So, let us take a positive stance, and list some of the things we can be thankful to Allah (swt) for, during lockdown.

Time

As the previous article said, we all have more time. How do we spend this extra time? Productive ways for Muslims to spend extra time include making sure we perform our five daily prayers on time. We really have no excuse during lockdown.

Abdullah (ra) asked the Prophet (saw), "Which deed is the dearest to Allah?" He replied, "To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times" (Bukhari); that is, shortly after the athan time.

We can also spend this extra time in profitable reading. As Muslims, reading the Quran is always a priority. However, we can also read other Islamic books. Many of us probably have bookshelves with books that we bought, intending to

read them on "a rainy day". That rainy day has come, and we have the time now to read those books.

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" (Ibn Majah).

Parents with children at home (inside the same "bubble") are finding that they are reconnecting with them. Often, parents go to work, and when they come home, are tired. During the lockdown, they can give them much more attention and love, and stop the children from feeling bored.

Allah's Messenger kissed Al-Hasan ibn Ali (his grandson) while Al-Aqra ibn Habis At-Tamimi was sitting with him. Al-Aqra said, "I have ten children and have never kissed one of them." The Prophet cast a look at him and said, "Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully" (Bukhari).

Lockdown gives us more time to catch up with friends and family who are not in our bubble. Nowadays, with technology (the internet, email, Skype, telephone, etc), it does not matter where in the world they are.

Technology

Imagine what lockdown would have been like, say, 30 years ago; in other words, before the internet. We all use the internet regularly to communicate with people by email, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc. We can have face-to-face chats with them by Skype, Zoom, etc. If we took away that technology, we would feel much more isolated.

Similarly, 100 years ago, there was no television or telephone – or even radio (the first radio broadcast was in 1920). We would again feel very cut off from everyone else.



1920 saw the end of the so-called Spanish flu¹, which started in 1918, infected 500 million people (about a third of the world's population at that time) with an estimated 50 million fatalities.

"Essential"

During lockdown, only occupations considered "essential" are still running as usual. This gives us the opportunity to consider what occupations are "essential", and which are not. People around the world have been applauding their essential services: police, fire, doctors, nurses, etc. We all need to eat, so farmers and others producing, transporting and selling food are essential.

A letter to the (New Zealand) *Herald on Sunday* (19 April) says, "It speaks volumes about the values of our society ... that alcohol and tobacco are considered essentials." In other words, as a society, we should reassess our values.

In the same newspaper, correspondent Paul Little writes, "I can't draw, but if I could, and was trying to draw a cartoon for these times, it would show God and an angel contemplating the Earth from on high. And the angel would be saying to God: "Have you tried turning it off and on again?" These times are an opportunity for us to reconsider what is right and what is wrong with the world, and to take action once the epidemic is over.

"A time will come upon the people when one will not care how one gains one's money, legally or illegally" (Bukhari).

NZ produce

We should be thankful that we live in New Zealand, which produces the great majority of the food we eat. Our farmers are still producing meat, fruit, vegetables, etc.

"O Believers! Eat of the good and pure (lawful) that We have provided you with and be grateful to Allah, if you truly worship Him" (Quran 2:172).

A healthier lifestyle

Because restaurants, cafes and takeaways have all been closed, we have all been cooking for ourselves at home. As a result, we have probably all been eating healthier home cooking, without the fast food and takeaways that are so common nowadays. As a result, we should be feeling healthier.

A fitter lifestyle

Under lockdown, we are only allowed out for very few reasons: to go to the supermarket, for emergencies (eg doctor, hospital), and to get some exercise. Many of us probably wish that, in normal times, we had more time to devote to doing some exercise and getting fit. However, we put it off because we can't find the time. Under lockdown, we have time aplenty.

"A strong believer is better and more beloved in the sight of Allah than a weak believer" (Muslim). While this clearly refers to strength of belief in Islam (iman), "some Commentators have explained that strength is referring to physical strength, as such a person will be able to perform longer rak'ahs of Salah, he will be able to fast, perform Haj and fight the enemy in jihad"².



Still having a job

Essential services can continue as usual. Many other jobs can transfer to being conducted online. Teachers are rapidly converting their classroom material to online delivery. Others, on the other hand, cannot operate online. New Zealand is a major tourism destination, but that business has dried up and many workers have been made redundant. So, if it is the case, you should be grateful still to have a job and income.

Garden

Those living in houses with gardens should be thankful that they can get out into the open, without going out of their bubble. Our sympathies go to flat-dwellers, who may have a balcony or communal garden at best.

Police

A large part of police work involves monitoring drunks late at night.

Since drunks are no longer allowed to be out, the police can devote their time to more worthwhile jobs such as patrolling the streets, enforcing the lockdown, keeping us all safe.

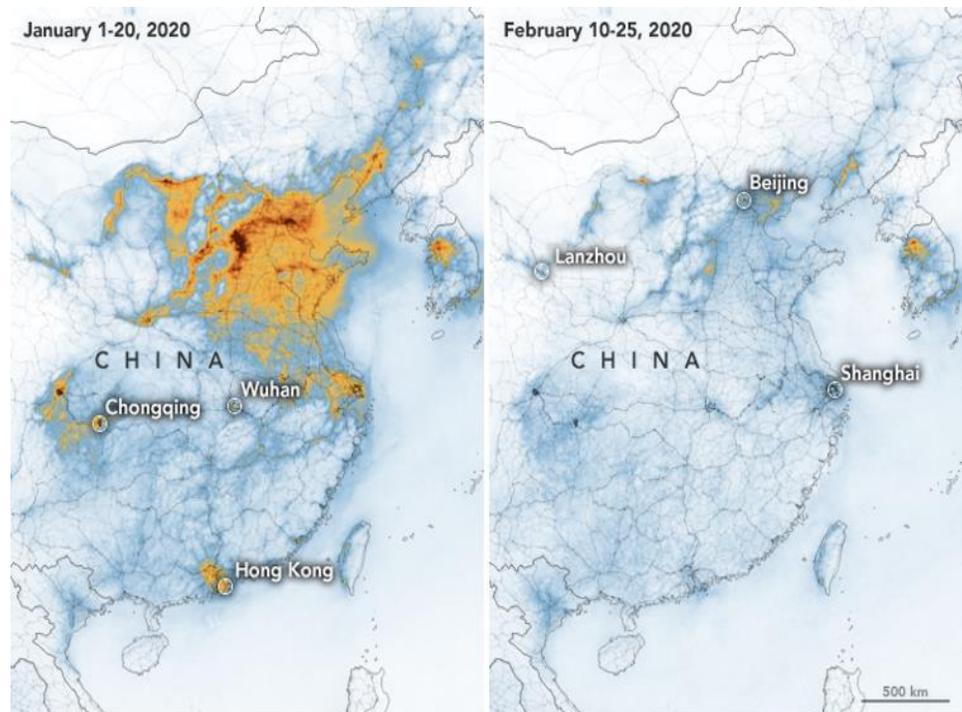
Pollution reduced

Finally, on a more global scale, satellite images show that pollution has been reduced. People are not using their cars to the same extent, and many factories are not operating.

“It is He who has appointed you as khulafa (vicegerents, stewards, caretakers) on the earth ...” (Quran 6:165).

While it is a worrying time during lockdown, as Muslims we should remember that everything – good or bad – comes from Allah (swt). If it seems bad, we should have patience (sabr), and if it is good we should be thankful (shukr). Even in lockdown, we still have a lot to be grateful for.

1 en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu
 2 hadithanswers.com/a-strong-believer-mumin-is-better-that-a-weak-believer



Pollution around Beijing before (l) and after (r) lockdown

Janazah, in lockdown

The Working Together Group (WTG)¹, who conduct Muslim funerals free of charge, and the At-Taqwa Trust², have produced the guide below for changes to janazah procedures during lockdown.

1 www.wtg.org.nz

2 www.masjidattaqwa.co.nz/about



MUSLIM BURIAL GUIDELINES DURING LEVEL 4 LOCKDOWN

This notice is directed to all our Muslim families living in New Zealand with the Emergency Alert 4 level to contain the COVID-19 virus. This has been introduced in order to keep all its citizens safe, healthy and protected. We are all in a lockdown situation as introduced by our government. There are laws and by-laws in place which we are obliged to follow which have been introduced for everyone to observe very strictly.

Even when we have a death in the family of our loved one there are also strict by-laws in place by the Ministry of Health, the ADHB Forensic Pathologist and the Cemeteries for us to follow to farewell our loved one. These are very challenging times for all of us, but we need to show extreme sabr (patience) and follow all the rules and regulations. **WE WILL BE PROSECUTED IF WE DO NOT OBEY THE EMERGENCY COVID-19 ALERT 4 LAWS.**

1.0. What all Muslims Need to Observe with Alert Level 4

- 1.1. There will be no gatherings what so ever at the home of the deceased, at the mosque, at gatherings for memorial services, at wakes, at processions, at reception gatherings to pass on condolence to the family or at any indoor or outdoor venues.
- 1.2. The same applies at the venue where the deceased is prepared for burial as well as the cemetery when burial takes place.
- 1.3. There will be no mixing of people from different isolation bubbles under any circumstances.
- 1.4. Remember we are in a lockdown situation and applies to all persons, regardless of who they are, when and where they died, or the cause of death.
- 1.5. These strict rules apply to everyone, every culture and every religion.
- 1.6. We are also obliged to follow additional rules and regulations introduced by the cemeteries and any of the medical health service providers.

2.0. What is the Reason for the Above Restrictions?

- 2.1. We all need to play an active role in NOT spreading the Covid-19 virus
- 2.2. Our priority as Muslims is to save lives and not to endanger others.
- 2.3. We need to play our role in minimising the affected cases to enable our health system and the front-line health workers to cope and look after the ones suffering from the virus.
- 2.4. We need to show our concern, kindness and caring love to all people who share a common space as citizens of New Zealand.
- 2.5. This is the best way to keep our communities and the greater society safe.

[1]



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3.0. Funeral Services during Alert Level 4

- 3.1. Communities or families will not be allowed to carry out the funerals including the transportation of the deceased.
- 3.2. The family needs to engage a registered funeral director to carry out all the functions of the burial of the deceased. We have appointed the services of a registered Funeral director (refer to 9.1 or 9.2)
- 3.3. These functions include the transportation of the deceased, preparation and burials as quickly as possible.
- 3.4. Funeral Homes have been identified as a controlled environment during Alert levels 3 and 4
- 3.5. The funeral director and members of his staff must also observe physical distancing protocols as outlined by the Ministry of Health.
- 3.6. The funeral Director may provide the family with other options such as:
 - 3.6.1. Provide streaming or photos of the service and burial.
 - 3.6.2. Allowing families to hold a memorial service at a later date to sympathise with the family after Alert level 4 has been lifted.
- 3.7. Funeral Directors may have other restrictions in place depending on their circumstances or safety policies and protocols. In addition, we need to follow their directives.
- 3.8. If your loved one dies at home you are not allowed to touch, wash or wrap your loved one as this is a significant health risk and forbidden.
- 3.9. The funeral director will transfer the body to their premises in their vehicle.

4.0. Preparations of the Deceased for Burial during Alert Level 4

- 4.1. Funeral Directors may allow religious Islamic rituals for the preparation of the body to occur in their controlled environment and specially designated controlled preparation room.
- 4.2. This will be carried out in the presence of a qualified embalmer who will give direction on the correct PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) requirements.
- 4.3. There will be no embalming involved at all, COVID-19 or not.
- 4.4. The Funeral director needs to work with the Muslim community to identify Muslim male and female representatives, minimum 3 females and 3 males, who can prepare the body of the deceased following correct Islamic procedures under the control of the embalming staff with gender sensitive facility.
- 4.5. These males (for a male deceased) and females (for a female deceased) will fulfil the requirements of the ghusl (body wash), Kafan wrapping (shrouding of layers of cloth) under the strict supervision of the embalming staff.
- 4.6. Where the deceased is female, female Muslim workers will perform ghusl, then leave. Male Muslim workers will then perform Janaza prayer and burial.

[2]



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- 4.7. Same procedures will be followed whether the cause of death is COVID-19 or other causes
- 4.8. Repatriation of a deceased, to an overseas burial, will be regarded as a special case and the Funeral Director will deal with it according to their Alert 4 directives.

5.0. Viewing of the Bodies at Alert Level 4

- 5.1. The funeral director or member of the funeral home will be present in the funeral home at the time of viewing and strictly observe the physical distancing requirement while any viewing takes place. We also need to observe their special viewing arrangements.
- 5.2. The deceased will not be transported from the funeral home for viewing elsewhere.
- 5.3. The family who has been in the same bubble as the deceased will have the opportunity to view their loved one at the appointed funeral home. **Caution:** The condition that applies here is that the family will be allowed to view only if they were present with the deceased when they died. Remember under Alert 4 the family cannot leave their home.
- 5.4. The family will not be allowed to kiss or touch the body during, or after, the viewing.
- 5.5. Other family, friends or others from a separate isolation bubble will not be allowed to go to the funeral home to view the deceased. The family will have to leave the area after viewing. Remember strict travel rules and social distancing are in place.
- 5.6. The 3 male Muslim Community workers will perform Janaza prayer over the deceased.
- 5.7. The facility of the funeral home where the viewing takes place must be sanitised after the viewing has taken place.
- 5.8. A register (spread contact list) will be kept by the Funeral Director. This register will include:
 - 5.8.1. Full names of all persons entering the funeral home to administer the Islamic religious practices and rituals
 - 5.8.2. The exact day and time that this has taken place
 - 5.8.3. Full names of all viewers with the exact day and time that the viewing has taken place
 - 5.8.4. The Current physical address of the above and the viewers' isolation bubble.
 - 5.8.5. Everyone's email address
 - 5.8.6. Everyone mobile contact number

6.0. Burial of the Deceased at the Cemetery during Alert Level 4

- 6.1. Cremation of a Muslim deceased will not take place as it is totally against the Islamic ruling. The body needs to be buried into the earth, in order to return it to its origin.
- 6.2. Family from the same isolation bubble as the deceased will be allowed to go to the cemetery for burial. **Caution:** The condition that applies here is that the family will be allowed at the cemetery only if they were present with the deceased when they died. Remember under Alert 4 the family cannot leave their home.



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- 6.3. The family needs to provide their own transport to the cemetery. A person or driver from another bubble will not be allowed to drive or transport the family to the cemetery.
- 6.4. If people from the same bubble are unwell, even mildly, they must remain at home.
- 6.5. People at high risk (such as the elderly, pregnant women, family members that are immune-compromised, have cancer, heart disease, respiratory issues, kidney problems, diabetes or high blood pressure) must also stay at home.
- 6.6. As soon as the burial is over, they must return home directly without taking detours.

7.0. Cemetery Directives and Requirements to be Observed during Alert Level 4

These are the directives we received 31/03/2020 from the Manager of Auckland Cemeteries, Auckland Council

URGENT UPDATE Auckland Council Response to New MOH Guidelines for Burials:

- 7.1. As of 31st March, and until further notice, all gates will be closed to non-authorized vehicles at our main sites.
- 7.2. Security will be attending gates to allow entry to authorized vehicles.
- 7.3. For burials that are going to be attended, **Funeral Directors will need to provide a list of attendees, before the burial** – these attendees should adhere to the **'isolated bubble'** guidelines as specified by MOH and details required will also be in line with these guidelines. Please see the attached document. This is to be emailed to the office **before burial**.
- 7.4. Only persons named on the list will be permitted entry. Security will monitor this, and ID will be requested.
- 7.5. Any lists of over 10 people will be notified to police and MOH for their awareness.
- 7.6. Funeral Directors and family from the same bubble will be **responsible for health and safety** at the graveside.
- 7.7. Burial teams will not be attending the funeral procedure but will backfill as soon as the family have left.
- 7.8. **Funeral Coordinators and family from the same bubble** will be responsible for carrying, lowering and placing of the body due to being non-casket burials in the case with Muslim burials. Email directive received from Auckland cemetery dated 3 April 2020 *"They cannot leave their home during level 4 (but if they were with the deceased when they died, then those family members may be able to view the deceased and accompany them to the burial.)"*
- 7.9. For those attending where there are not enough people to carry and lower the deceased, the cemetery burial team will carry and lower.
- 7.10. If the cemetery burial team are carrying and lowering, **'the isolated bubble' people must remain at a safe distance** and will need to wait until the cemetery burial team have moved away before moving to the graveside.
- 7.11. In order to accommodate the above and ensure everyone's health and safety, **burial times will need to be adhered to** and this will be strictly enforced. Failure to turn up within 15 minutes of agreed time will result in the burial needing to be rescheduled.

[4]



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With Other
Contributors

7.12. Over the next few days, we will continue to review our plans to ensure we minimise the risk and still enable you and all our cemeteries to continue to provide service to our Auckland families.

Please note: The above applies to all the cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Auckland City Council. Muslims outside the Auckland City Council jurisdiction must communicate with your local City or District Council to be aware of their cemetery directives and requirements.

8.0. Be warned under Alert Level 4

- 8.1.** If family or anyone breaks the rules the funeral director will take action and contact the authorities for support and action.
- 8.2.** Please be aware that the Ministry of Health will be updating these directives from time to time in keeping with the changing situations of COVID-19 for the safety of our people.
- 8.3.** Once we come out of Alert level 4, COVID-19 is still a real threat and all of us need to be alert, watchful, cautious, observant and vigilant.
- 8.4.** Further directives will be put in place to follow and action during Alert levels 3, 2 and 1 over the coming period

9.0. Contact Details of the South Auckland Janaza Providers during Alert Level 4

Alhamdulillah SAMA, At Taqwa and WTG have agreed to work together to service a janaza while we are in lockdown situation by strictly observing all the directives issued by the Ministry of Health as well as the Auckland Cemetery. We are working together as it affects all of us. These are very challenging times and we are appreciative that, at this point in time consideration has been put in place to allow the Muslims to fulfil some of the basic Islamic funeral rights to our deceased in the burial process at a pre-arranged funeral home.

9.1. Funeral Parlour appointed for South Auckland

- 9.1.1. Name of Parlour:** Anns Funeral Home & Onsite Cremations
- 9.1.2. Address:** 11c Bolderwood Place, Wiri, Auckland
- 9.1.3. Contact Person:** Sam 021 395 723
- 9.1.4. After Hours Contact:** Sam 021 395 723
- 9.1.5. Estimated cost of their service:** \$1667.50 (subject to a case by case basis/after hours)

9.2. Funeral Parlour appointed for North Shore

- 9.2.1. Name of Parlour:**
- 9.2.2. Address:**
- 9.2.3. Contact Person:**
- 9.2.4. After Hours Contact:**
- 9.2.5. Estimated cost of their service:**

*Still negotiating with two
funeral directors on the
north shore with costing*



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9.3. South Auckland Muslim Association (SAMA)

- 9.3.1. **Address of Masjid:** 26 Mangere Road, Otahuhu, Auckland
 9.3.2. **Contact persons:** Shakeel 021 537 633 and Haji Ismail 021 476 245
 9.3.3. **Representatives for Males:** Molvi Shafeez 021 298 2851,
 Waseem Malik 022 070 3819
 9.3.4. **Representative for Females:**
 Sr Sakina Salam 021 0404246 and Sr Shazeela Khan 021 239 9153
 9.3.5. **Muslim Cleric for Janaza Salaat:**
 Molvi Shafeez 021 298 2851, Waseem Malik 022 070 3819

9.4. At Taqwa Masjid.

- 9.4.1. **Address of Masjid:** 58 Grayson Avenue, Manukau
 9.4.2. **Contact persons:** Sheikh Anwar Sahib 027 517 1107, Mohammed Rafiq 021 106 0456
 9.4.3. **Representative for Males:** Fawzan 021 059 6995 & Shamim 021 716 833
 9.4.4. **Representative for Females:** Srs Razia & Farea
 9.4.5. **Muslim Cleric for Janaza Salaat:** Sheikh Anwar Sahib

9.5. Working Together Group (WTG)

- 9.5.1. **Address of WTG:** Email info@wtg.org.nz
 9.5.2. **Contact persons:** Ismail Waja 021 2129 282 & Mazin Ali-Salim 021 1466 179
 9.5.3. **Representative for Males:**
 Abdur-Rub Muhammed 021 0260 3759, Kadir Baridwan 020 422 3777 and
 Ashraf Khan 021 786 676
 9.5.4. **Representative for Females:** Sr Selma 022 473 5622 and Sr Marah 021 267 4931
 (Standby Srs Shenaaz & Norsiha)
 9.5.5. **Selection of a Muslim Cleric:** At the family's choice

9.6. Sri Lanka Muslim Janaza Fund

- 9.6.1. **Address:** 39, Hamon Avenue, Mount Roskill, Auckland 1041
 9.6.2. **Contact persons:** Mohamed Ibrahim 021 779 367 & Mukhlis Ismail 027 900 2474
 9.6.3. **Contact Email:** muki.ismail1207@gmail.com
 9.6.4. **Representative for Males:** Arafath Cassim 021 979 801, Omar Fahmy 021 0242 0959
 & Anas Faleel 021 268 3366
 9.6.5. **Representatives for Females:** Srs. Zaneera Faizal - 021 201 8583 &
 Mujeeba Majeed 021 779 367
 9.6.6. **Muslim Cleric for Janaza Salaat:** Arafath Cassim - 021 979 801



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9.7. Muslims Living in New Zealand.

9.7.1. What will apply to you in your city?

All the rules and directives of the MOH will apply to all Muslims living in New Zealand. These may change from time to time as advised by MOH depending on the situation at hand in New Zealand. Please acquaint yourselves with the guidelines issued by the MOH. The link appears in our references (11.1, 11.2 & 11.4)

9.7.2. Muslims living outside the Auckland City Council Jurisdiction

9.7.2.1. What you have to arrange ASAP.

A Funeral Director: It is advisable for all Muslim groups offering a janaza service in your area to make contact with a local registered Funeral Parlour and arrange that they handle a janaza during this Alert 4 lockdown period.

Follow your local Cemetery Rules: You also need to make contact with your cemetery officials and ascertain the procedures that you need to follow when a death occurs during this Alert 4 lockdown period.

9.7.2.2. Inform your community of contact details

It will be vital to share your contact details with your community in your area in the event a need arises for a janaza service.

10.0. Muslim Body Washing and Burial Procedure During Lockdown

LATEST UPDATE FROM MOH: Please note that these directives have arrived in our inbox at 10 am on Thursday, 2 April 2020. This is an important document as it has come from Simon Manning, Funeral Directors Association of NZ Pandemic Lead, and the MOH as well as from Dr Simon Staples, the ADHB Forensic Pathologist. This will add great value and weight to our document for circulation to the Muslim community in our networks.

Only **THREE** Muslim community workers will be allowed to participate in this process.

- 10.1. The Funeral Home transfers the deceased from the place of Death and transfers it to the bathing table in the Funeral Home mortuary.
- 10.2. Muslims Community workers will remove the clothing and conduct the ghusl (bathing)
- 10.3. Muslim Community workers will prepare it for burial by wrapping it in kafan (white sheets)
- 10.4. Deceased transferred from the mortuary table and placed on an appropriate surface and location
- 10.5. Only Family members from the deceased person's bubble will view it and leave
- 10.6. The Muslim Community workers will pray Janaza over it
- 10.7. The funeral home will transfer the deceased to the cemetery accompanied by the Muslim community workers to lower it into the grave
- 10.8. There will be no embalming involved at all, COVID-19 or not.



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- 10.9.** Where the deceased is male, only male Muslim workers will be involved
- 10.10.** Where the deceased is female, female Muslim workers will perform ghusl, then leave. Male Muslim workers will then perform Janaza and burial
- 10.11.** Same procedures will be followed whether the cause of death is COVID-19 or other causes.
- 10.12.** The funeral home is required to provide the following PPE equipment for the Muslim community workers who carry out this process on the deceased.
- 10.12.1. P2 or N95 masks
- 10.12.2. Disposable gloves
- 10.12.3. Eye protection
- 10.12.4. Plastic disposable gowns
- 10.12.5. Gumboots.
- 10.12.6. It will be important though to ensure that anybody who is helping with the ritual is shown how to put the P2 or N95 mask on properly and that the removal of these items is done correctly with the use of hand sanitiser and soap to ensure they are worn correctly and removed correctly.

11.0. References on which We Based these Directives and Information

- 11.1.** This guidance has just been published on the Ministry's website providing advice for funeral directors about the restrictions on tangihanga and funerals during level 4.
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-funerals-and-tangihanga>
- 11.2.** There is already advice on the Ministry's website on handling the remains of those who have died while infected with COVID-19 at
<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/management-deaths-due-covid-19-information-funeral-directors-30mar20.pdf>
- 11.3. URGENT UPDATE:** Auckland Council – Cemeteries directives in response to the MOH guidelines – Emails dated 31/3/20-20 and 3/04/2020.
- 11.4. LATEST UPDATE:** Ministry of Health in conjunction with Dr Simon Staples, Forensic Pathologist, have agreed to this update. This has been forwarded by MOH via email to us dated 2/04/2020.



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*With Other
 Contributors*

12.0. Thanks and Appreciation from the Muslim Community

- 12.1. Our gratitude and thanks to our Creator for HIS protection with HIS Rahma (mercy) and Barakah (blessings) on all of us.
- 12.2. To our Prime Minister and her cabinet who moved so swiftly to move into Alert level 4 for the welfare and safety of all of us.
- 12.3. To the Ministry of Health, the New Zealand Police, Simon Manning and other experts who have contributed to the above MOH guidelines. This has removed all speculations, hearsay reports and the uncertainty that the Muslim community have found themselves in since the Alert level 4 was declared. We realise that all involved have worked around the clock towards the completion of these guidelines for our safety and welfare.
- 12.4. We are very grateful to the Cemetery section, all the health workers, law enforcement units and the frontline workers and volunteers who have put their own lives in danger to keep the community safe, protected and always ready to provide that essential service even at the cost of endangering their health and lives.
- 12.5. Thank you also to the cross-section of all service providers who have provided us with the necessary life essentials as well as vital information for our survival during these very difficult times.
- 12.6. Thank you to the general public who are sharing a common space, for your very caring attitude of observing the Alert Level 4 lockdown to keep all of us safe and healthy.

**MAY ALLAH HAVE RAHMA (MERCY) ON ALL
 AND MAY ALLAH BLESS NEW ZEALAND**





Quiz about Islam and Muslims

During lockdown, many people have been posting quizzes online for others to answer, and keep mentally active. This quiz was produced by the Pew Forum¹, a US research body that describes itself as “a nonpartisan fact tank”.

They describe the purpose of the quiz: “Muslims are the second-largest religious group in the world, and they have a growing presence in the West. Yet our surveys indicate that relatively few people in the U.S. or Europe say they have much knowledge about Islam.”

See if you can get all 12 questions right. The answers are at the bottom of page 21.

1 What percentage of the world's population is Muslim (2015 Pew Research Center estimate)?

- a) 14% b) 19% c) 24% d) 31%

2 What percentage of the U.S. population is Muslim (2017 Pew Research Center estimate)?

- a) 1% b) 4% c) 9% d) 17%

3 Which of the following is NOT among the Five Pillars of Islam?

- a) Profession of faith (shahada) b) Following Islamic law (sharia)
c) Fasting during Ramadan (sawm) d) Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj)

4 Which of these countries is predominantly made up of Shiite Muslims?

- a) Turkey b) Saudi Arabia c) Pakistan d) Iran

5 Which sect of Islam do more Muslims around the world identify with?

- a) Sunni Islam b) Shia Islam

6 Which country has the world's largest Muslim population?

- a) Saudi Arabia b) Egypt c) Iran d) Indonesia

7 What percentage of U.S. Muslim adults are immigrants?

- a) 44% b) 58% c) 67% d) 82%

8 What percentage of U.S. Muslim adults are U.S. citizens?

- a) 44% b) 58% c) 67% d) 82%

9 Which major political party do the majority of Muslim Americans favor?

- a) The Republican Party b) The Democratic Party

10 Which best describes how Americans, on average, describe their feelings toward Muslims?

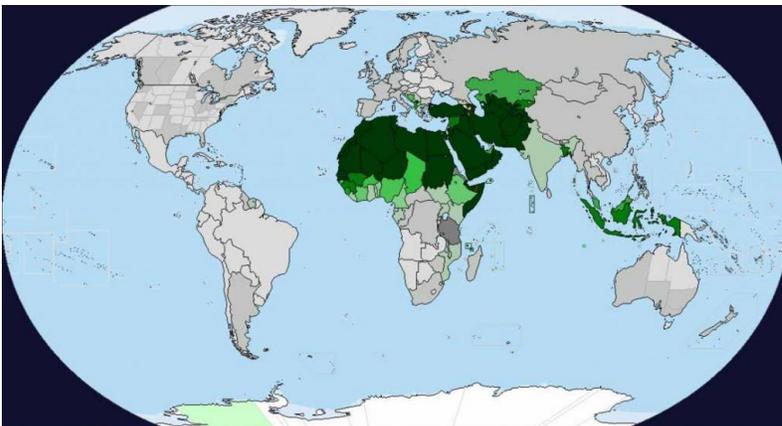
- a) Americans feel more positive toward Muslims than most other religious groups
 b) Americans feel more negative toward Muslims than most other religious groups
 c) Americans have about the same feelings toward Muslims as toward most other religious groups

11 What share of U.S. adults view Islam as part of "mainstream U.S. society"?

- a) Fewer than half b) About half c) More than half

12 In which part of Europe do people express the highest levels of acceptance toward Muslims?

- a) Western Europe b) Central Europe c) Eastern Europe





Yasir Qadhi

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.

3 May

Quran: 2: 183-185 Fasting and Ramadan.
Animation clip 43. How to find peace in life.
Lecture 41: Ramadan – what to ask Allah. Nouman Ali Khan.
Things you should take seriously this Ramadan.
Ramadan action plan.
Pearls from the Quran 05: Desires made alluring to people. Yasir Qadhi.
Fasting not just about food & drink.

10 May

Quran: 2: 183-185 Fasting and Ramadan.
Animation clip 44. How to improve your character.
Lecture 38: Ramadan – I can't feel anything. Nouman Ali Khan.
The last 10 nights. Tawfique Choudhury.
The secrets of fasting.
Pearls from the Quran 06: Allah promises to accept repentance. Yasir Qadhi.

17 May

Quran: 97: 1-5 Night of power.
Animation clip 45. How to increase taqwa.
Lecture 39: Ramadan – Looking ahead. Nouman Ali Khan.
How to get your dua accepted.
Signs of an accepted Ramadan.
Pearls from the Quran 19: Laylatul Qadr (the night of power). Yasir Qadhi.

24 May

Quran: 97: 1-5 Night of power.
Animation clip 46. The beauty of Surah al-Falaq.
Lecture: Continuing the path after Ramadan.
Signs of an accepted Ramadan.
Fasting 6 days of Shawwal.
Eid ul fitr – the power of gratitude.
Overcoming laziness.
My path to Islam: Sr Aisha from Opononi.

31 May

Quran: 18: 107-110 Al Khaf 1 God has no partners.
Animation clip 47. To whom do you owe ihsan?
Islamophobia 1: 16 How can a prophet of God raid a caravan?
Al Baqarah series 07: deaf, dumb, blind. Nouman Ali Khan.
Q&A: How to obtain firm and doubt free faith. Shabir Ally.
Doco: Scientific miracles of the Quran 1 part 1.
People of Quran 06: Can't touch this. Omar Suleiman.

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: www.voitv.org

Auckland prayer timetable for May 2020

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

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

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

Answers to quiz (pages 18-9): 1c, 2a, 3b, 4d, 5a, 6d, 7b, 8d, 9b, 10b, 11a, 12a.

“How can a believer not shed tears at the departure of Ramadan, when he doesn’t even know whether he’ll be alive for its return or not?”

(Ibn Rajab al-Habali, 14th century scholar)

Credits

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

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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.

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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)