



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #5, June 2020



Eid Message - Professor Shahjahan Khan

*Eid Greetings from Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba – Eid ul Fitr 2020
Assalamu alaikum warahmatullah.*

Very special greetings of *Eid ul Fitr* “*Eid Mubarak*” to you, your family and members of your community in a very difficult time at the end of a very different month of Ramadan in the lockdown state without being able to physically attend *Masjid*, and congregation of *Tarawi* and *Eid* Prayers.

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, *Alhamdulillah*, Muslims were able to perform almost all essential aspects of Ramadan – fasting (*siam*), night prayers (*tarawi and qiam*), recitation of the holy *Qur’an*, *suhur*, *ifter*, and offer of *zakat alfitr*, *zakat almaal* and other charities - away from the *Masjid*. May *Allah* ignore all shortfalls in our rituals and accept our *ibadat*, forgive all sins and reward with His best favours in both worlds.

May *Allah SWT* remove all the differences among the Muslims, united their hearts with the best understanding of Islam, and bless them with helpers and leaders who could uplift the lives of ordinary people, specially the vulnerable, weak and oppressed, and elevate the status and prestige of the *Ummah* of Muhammad SWS.

We pray to *Allah* that He protects best of His creation from the pandemic and all evil perpetrated by a very small number of wrong-doers by filling their hearts with love and respect for others so that all people of the world could live in peace as brothers and sisters – all being the children of Adam and Eve, peace be with them.

Professor Shahjahan Khan, PhD
President, Islamic Society of Toowoomba
Chairman, Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba

Eid Message – Imam Abdul Kader

Eid Mubarak: the blessed day of Eid

The Arabic word *Eid* means to recur, to return back again and again. Every year, the day of *Eid* comes back into our life with joy and happiness. It returns back to us with blessings and rewards from *Allah*. It's a recurring prize-giving ceremony for those who have celebrated the month of *Ramadhan*. Joy and

happiness overtake the life of *Ummah*, the entire Muslim nation. While they rejoice *Eid*, they further demonstrate their return to their Creator by following His command of abstaining from fasting on the day of *Eid*. With the inception of dawn, their tongues get busy with *Takhbeer* glorifying *Allah* (SWT) followed by the compulsory charity of *Zakaat al-Fitr*, and then their complete submission to Him through *Eid* prayer. All these are among significant acts of worship in Islam. These acts denote continuity of their submission to *Allah* regardless of time, space and circumstance. These also highlight the importance of being and remaining selfless and most caring for others in need. These meanings and acts of worship should go on till the last breath. This is the very command of *Allah* in the *Qur’aan* (15:99).

The other meaning of *Eid* is to gather together. The day of *Eid* gathers people of all colors, ethnicities, and all walks of life. It places them in rows shoulder-to-shoulder and feet-to-feet standing in humility before their One Creator. This stand removes all human-made-social-boundaries, and eradicates all forms of discriminations against each other. Such gathering boosts social harmony and spread friendship and brotherhood among the believers. It also creates an atmosphere where people forget and forgive, and re-bond the broken/weaken tie of relationship. Hand-shake, hugs, visits to friends and families, sharing food and sweets and obviously exchanging gifts are some practical measures Islam promotes to achieve greater love, compassion and harmony among the *Ummah*. Unfortunately, this important meaning of *Eid* has been greatly impacted by the social restrictions due to covid19 pandemic. We have missed out most of the above-mentioned acts of righteousness. However, the rewards of those good-deeds will be continuously credited into our account with *Allah* as long as we undertook those actions previously and those are our regular practices. This is indeed a glad tidings for the believers. May *Allah* (SWT) be kind to us and grant us many *Eids* in our life. May He bring us back to His house, *Masjid*. May He protect all humans against the pandemic. May He forgive our shortfalls and sins. *Aameen*.

Shayekh Abdul Kader
Imam, Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba

Imam’s Visit to Kingaroy Hospital

On 18 May 2020, Imam Abdul Kader received a phone call from Kingaroy hospital, good 2 hours driving from Toowoomba. A Muslim patient named Hasan in a critical condition wanted to see him. He visited Br Hasan on Wednesday 20 May 2020. He stayed with him about 2 hours. Imam also managed to get brother AbdusSalam, a revert Muslim living nearby, at the hospital during the visit. Brother Hasan is an immigrant Australian and was born in a pious family in Bosnia. He wanted to move to Toowoomba to spend his last days and to be buried in the Muslim section of Drayton, Toowoomba graveyard. Imam



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tried to uplift his mental health and strengthen his trust and hope in *Allah*. He has also assured him of our full supports if he decides to move to a nursing home in or around Toowoomba. We also prayed for his quick recovery. May Allah grant him a speedy healing. Aameen.

We have also received a donation of \$350.00 towards Masjid from brother AbdusSalam. May Allah accept and bless. *Aameen*.

Ramadhan: Zakaat al-Fitr and Maal

Alhamdulillah, like in the previous years, we have received some *zakat* money from community. May Allah accept and give blessing in those contributions. Ameen. We have supported 5 local families in need, and sent a portion to overseas to support Rohingya Muslims as well as to help those who are affected by the recent devastating cyclone Amphan. We normally reserve some fund from *zakat al-maal* for the purpose of emergency and crisis management.

Activities in Ramadan

Muslims in Toowoomba fasted in Ramadan without much activities in the Mosque. However, Imam Abdul Kader delivered short lectures on different topics at 7:30pm on every night during whole month of Ramadan. People prayed Tarawi salat at home with families. The online Friday Khutbah was also continued. Some families distributed cooked food to the community as the Mosque was closed.

Children Education: Virtual Learning Opportunity

Children Arabic language and Islamic Studies classes have been continuing through virtual learning option. We have been using Zoom ID: 379 889 2083. The sessions run on every weekend (both Sat and Sunday) from 10am till 1pm. The progress and outcome of this new method of learning is satisfactory. Parents are encouraged to contact Imam if they need more information in this regard.

Second Stage of Rebuilding – Contract for Internal fittings of the Mosque

We now have a contractor who is about to enter into a contract to start the fitting works inside the new building. The work includes electrical cabling and fittings, plumbing and fittings, gyproc and plastering, painting, sound system cabling and fitting, ducted air conditioning etc. Subject to the lifting of restrictions on building industry, the work is expected to start in the second half of June 2020.

The estimated cost is around \$325k. The builder who rebuild the burnt mosque has been selected to do the fittings job.

Sanitizing lights update

In preparation for the gradual re-opening of the Mosque and for the safety of the worshippers new sanitizing LED germicidal tube lights have been installed in the mosque. The mosque is now providing full sterilized-environment by getting rid of 99.9% of the microorganisms (e.g. Bacteria and viruses) and purify the air by using the newly bought lamps within 60 mins maximum. This is particularly important during Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Everyone visiting the Mosque would also require to use hand sanitizer and maintain social distance.

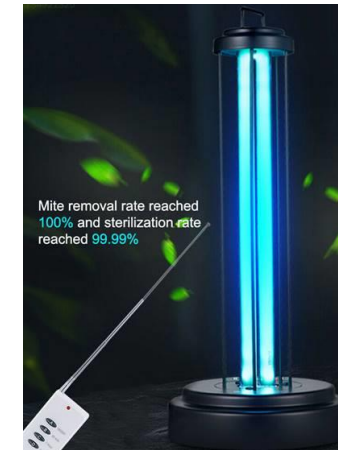


Photo: Sanitizing lights



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Muslim and Christian Prayers

Muslims and Christians praying to Allah SWT for the protection of Mankind from the Covid-19 pandemic at the Toowoomba Mosque. The news was broadcasted by WIN TV Channel. More information can be found in the WIN News Toowoomba Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/209825109053471/videos/889057054930571/>

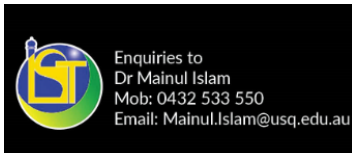
The St Anthony's Church and its congregation always extends their hands of friendship to Garden City Mosque. This joint prayer session is the latest example of the long standing cooperation between the people of the two Abrahamic religions.

Fundraising Updates

A short video on fundraising for Garden City mosque was created during Ramadan. The video was uploaded on YouTube and distributed among Muslim communities via Email, WhatsApp and Facebook. The short video (with Arabic subtitle) link for fundraising appeal to rebuild burnt Toowoomba Mosque is provided below:

<https://youtu.be/sz3cvS3CTz4>

Since launching of the latest Fundraising Appeal on the first of Ramadan, we have received over \$50,000. Alhamdulillah. Jazak Allah Khair to everyone who contributed the project. May Allah reward everyone who have helped and contributed to the rebuilding of Toowoomba Mosque. We will continue to raise more funds to complete the outstanding work for the Masjid building and carparking areas. Please deposit your donations to the bank account below.



Enquiries to
Dr Mainul Islam
Mob: 0432 533 550
Email: Mainul.Islam@usq.edu.au

DONATE NOW

Donations via Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Toowoomba Plaza Branch
A/C Name: Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Organisation
BSB: 064 459 A/C Number: 1034 1586
Swift Code: CTBAU25XXX

Eid Prayers Arrangements

Toowoomba Muslims prayed Eid ul Fitr salat on Sunday, 24 May 2020 at home just before 9am. After finishing Eid ul Fitr salat, they joined online Khutbah at 9am via Zoom. Very limited number of home visits were organised by individual families on the Eid Day with strict maintenance of social distancing.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3798892083?pwd=ZFIKQjZ0NTBWMEJPaFAxZ3dYZDNwdz09>

Community Services

- Halal Meat Delivery – Contact Br Murad on 04 0669 1749
- Toowoomba Police Contact Officer Alex Singleton 04 2250 3691
- 1800 RESPECT www.1800respect.org.au
Support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse. Interpreter 13 14 50
- Business advertisement contact: Shahjahan.Khan@usq.edu.au

Communication with Mosque via Technology

Imam Abdul Kader: gaderqsis@yahoo.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/>
WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba
Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083
Friday Khutbah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083
Daily night discussion: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083