



Toowoomba Muslim Newsletter

Issue #4, May 2020



Ramadan Message - Professor Shahjahan Khan, PhD

Assalamu alaikum and Ramadan Mubarak.

Alhamdulillah, we are witnessing another Ramadan. I am sure this Ramadan is very different from any of the Ramadan we have witnessed in generations. This is due to the covid-19 pandemic and the social distancing practice by Muslims.

We will miss praying in the mosque, especially tarawi prayers with beautiful recitation of the holy Qur'an. We will miss the brother/sister hood of so many Muslims joining prayers at the mosque. The smiling volunteers, cheerful children and devout worshippers will not be seen this year. We have to make our home a place of worship for this Ramadan – let members of every family prayer together.

For Toowoomba Muslims, this is the first time in about 30 years when breakfast and dinner will not be served at the mosque every night. Many former residents of Toowoomba and USQ students regularly tell us that they miss Ramadan in Toowoomba. This year we are also going to miss Ramadan activities in Toowoomba. It is heartbreaking but we must accept the reality.

We will miss our lovely neighbours and our regular guests and friends from different churches, community organisations, and leaders from faith traditions, council and political parties. We assure them that they will be welcome to the mosque when restrictions due to covid-19 pandemic is over.

At this point, we are not sure if we will be able to celebrate end of Ramadan, Eid ul Fitr together or not. This is another occasion where nearly one thousand children, women and men from diverse background gather for prayers, charity and greetings every year. If the restriction remains in place during the Eid, we will offer online Khutbah (same way as the Jumma Khutbah) on the Eid Day Inshaa Allah, and then pray at our home with our family.

In Ramadan, every night Imam Abud Kader is providing online short sessions at 7:30pm via Zoom. This is very useful to learn and review different aspects of Ramadan and its associated rituals and activities.

Worshipping of Allah, for Muslims, is not stopped under any difficult circumstances. We need to adopt our style of worshipping in the changed situation. But we worship the same Allah via the same rituals (Ramadan, Salat, Zakat ect) but in different environment. Allah knows what is in our heart and our intention, and He will judge us accordingly.

Please remember all oppressed people of the world at this challenging time and offer them help, if you can, and make duwa for the poor and needy everywhere.

May Allah accept our siyam (fast), quiam (standing), zakatul fitr/maal and all other ibadat in this month and beyond and make us better person to be more close to Allah and His beloved ones.

Toowoomba Muslims Support Covid-19 Affected People

In spite of generous financial support packages from Australian Governments, there are poor families, including international students and people on bridging visas, in our community who need urgent help. Islamic Society of Toowoomba and Toowoomba Mosque have been raising fund and providing limited financial help to the needy people in Toowoomba and surrounding region. It is more rewarding to give charity and help needy in this difficult time than in a normal situation.

If you need help or you know someone who needs help, please do not hesitate to contact Toowoomba Mosque via its Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/>

May Allah keep everyone safe and enable us to remember His continuing bounties.

Refurbishment work of Prayer Hall

Volunteers from the community have painted the exterior of the current prayer hall. The project has been led by Br Muhidin Hadzich. Recently, Br Noor Abdul Rahman has also joined his team. The also replaced the damaged gutter in between the two buildings and in the front entrance area of the prayer hall.

Br Mohammad Abdul Kareem has placed pavements to the West side entrance of the prayer hall. This will help reduce dirt coming inside hall after using toilet and making ablution by sisters.

Br Mohamed Ali organised special vacuum cleaning with HEPA filter of the carpet in the prayer hall. A local cleaning business helped complete the job professionally to meet the requirement of Workplace Health and Safety of Queensland Government.



Newly painted front area of prayer hall

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New carpet in ladies prayer room

Recently new carpet has been put in the ladies prayer room of the prayer hall. Br Muhidin Hadzich organised quotation and coordinated replacement of old carpet in the ladies prayer room by new carpet. It is now fresh and looking much better.



New carpet in ladies prayer room

Painting of Stephen St Unit

Sr Ellisa Parker has refurbished the upper level unit of Stephen St property. She also has painted the unit. The Islamic Society paid for all materials and labour cost for the work. The unit is now much better and fresh, and ready for new occupants.

Rebuilding of Mosque: Second Phase Work progress

The lock-up stage (building with roof, walls, windows and doors) of the rebuilding of old burnt mosque and new extension was completed last year. We were looking for contractors to complete the internal fittings (electrical, plumbing/toilet fittings, air condition, tiling, painting etc). The Tender Committee led by Eng Shabbirul Mujib made a recommendation based on the tenders received from contractors. The Executive Committee has decided to offer the job to Mr Nedzad Izmirlch at the cost of \$321k with some variation if the material cost changes due to the delay in the starting of the job.



Starting of rebuilding work to the current lock-up stage of the building
The community must pay at least 50% of the cost before the beginning of the work.

The work is likely to start after the social distancing restriction is relaxed or lifted. After the completion of the internal fittings we plan to start working on concreting of the carparking area and constructing two driveways, fencing and landscaping.

Online Madrasa

Imam Abdul Kader is running online Madrasa for three different groups/ levels of student. During the school break the sessions were in the afternoon in the week days. Now it is run in the weekend and after hours.



Online Madrasa run from the Mosque by Imam Abdul Kader

Fundraising appeal for Second Phase of Rebuilding of Masjid

Here is an opportunity to be a part of rebuilding a burnt mosque. This is your chance to give a hand in reemitting/spreading the light of Allah from His burnt house.

We did not ask the community for any donations for the rebuilding of the mosque in the last two years. Now, the project requires everyone's duwa and financial support. We have already circulated emails with request to make donations and spread the appeal via emails and different social media. We have also launched the appeal on our Face Book. Please share the appeal with as many people as you can and ask your contacts and friends to share it to their contacts and friends.

It is highly rewarding to make charity in Ramadan. Also it is more rewarding to donate in the difficult time than normal time. We urgently need about \$60k AUD to start the internal fittings work.

Please donate at

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Account Name: | Toowoomba Islamic Charitable Trust |
| Bank: | Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Toowoomba Branch) |
| BSB: | 064 459 |
| Account Number: | 1034 1586 |
| Swift Code: | CTBAAU25XXX |



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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

**\$500,000 AUD
REQUIRED**

to complete outstanding work

100 donors \$5000 each
200 donors \$2500 each
500 donors \$1000 each
1000 donors \$500 each

Donation to cover the cost for any
chosen item is welcome.



HELP COMPLETE THE BURNT TOOWOOMBA MOSQUE



Burnt Mosque, April 2015



Rebuilding Start, Oct. 2018



Lock-up stage, December 2019

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION

Outstanding work:

- Electrical fittings
- Toilet fittings
- Air-conditioning
- Sound system
- Plaster and paint
- Fencing and gates
- Carpeting
- Retaining wall and earthwork
- Acoustic walls
- Camera and Security system
- Landscaping, Rainwater tank
- Infrastructure fee to Council
- 40 sealed and 16 overflow car parks and two driveways

Garden City Mosque, Toowoomba was set up by purchasing an old Church in January 2014. It is the only Mosque west of Brisbane for over 2000 Muslims.

Two arson attacks in early 2015 caused serious damages to the Mosque building. Rebuilding and extension plans to fit 500 worshippers approved by Toowoomba Regional Council in 2017.

Thankfully received support from Muslims in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, New Castle, Wollongong and Darwin.

Rebuilding work started in October 2018.

Lock-up stage (building with doors, windows and roof) completed December 2019.

 ToowoombaMosque

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

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

The daily Chronicle story of Ramadan under Covid-19

How Toowoomba Muslim community practises Ramadan in pandemic

TOBI LOFTUS

24th Apr 2020 2:27 PM

TOOWOOMBA'S Islamic community is having to adapt how they practise Ramadan this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Ramadan, which began on Thursday night, is one of the most important months of the Islamic calendar, and is said to celebrate the moment Allah (God) first revealed the words of the Quran to Mohammed.



Muslims fast for the month, only eating before sunrise or after sunset.

The Toowoomba Islamic Society's Professor Shahjahan Khan said the local Muslim community would usually gather at the mosque for a breakfast every day after sunset.

"We're going to miss that this year because (of COVID-19)," he said.

"We're going to miss that environment, and fraternity.

"Neighbours of the mosque, friends within the wider community, leaders, usually join us as well.

"It's a difficult time where people need support, so they want to do (the usual breakfast) but can't do that."

Prof Khan said while the mosque was closed because of coronavirus restrictions, the Imam was holding the usual Ramadan readings and advice sessions over Zoom instead.

"We're trying to keep the community connected and teachings passed across," he said.

He said the community, for which this is a time they usually come together, was taking solace in the words of Mohammed.

"He said 1450 years ago if there is a pandemic don't get out of it, and don't get into it," he said.

"When there is a pandemic you don't go out so you don't spread it to others and you don't go out and make yourself sick.

"This time today is a practical application of that."

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The community has also raised \$7000 to help people who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as international students and refugees.

"One of the teachings of Ramadan is to give," Prof Khan said.

"When you're fasting, you feel like someone who doesn't have any food to eat.

"That felling of hunger should drive person who is fasting to help someone less fortunate.

"That should be a teaching that is intensified at the moment."

Ramadan will run until May 23 this year.

Summary of Khutbah by Imam

Dear Muslims

As salaamu alikum

Let's thank Allah (SWT) for blessing us with blissful month of Ramadhan. This year the month of Ramadhan will be observed differently than perhaps any Ramadhan in our life.

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), all places of worship, including Mosques are still closed. This is very hard for all of us with our hearts attached to Mosques especially during the month of Ramadhan where thousands of us observe Taraweeh, join everyday Iftar, children memorise Qur'an. The Masjid remains vibrant all over the month.



It is worthy of mentioning here that all Muslims should help with the fight against coronavirus through adhering to the Government's guidance. Please help protecting the lives of the most vulnerable people around us.

Even though we will not be able to hold congregational prayers at Mosques, we would encourage you to observe the prayers and worships with the family at home. We ask Allah (SWT) to reward us more than our prayers at the Mosque.

In Islam, difficulties and calamities are destined by God Almighty, The Messenger of God [pbuh] said, "There is no trouble that comes to a believer except that it removes some of his sins...". So, stay positive and proactive. Use your ample free time to be more productive. Engage yourself in activities of benefit in Here and/or Hereafter. Help your family. Give your spouse a respite. Look after the children and kitchen. You will appreciate and acknowledge the roles of each other in the family.

Please convert your "quarantine" into "Qur'an time" and do i'tikaaf at your residence. Read Qur'an, understand it and implement its guidance into your life.

Following the sunnah of our Prophet SAW, display your utmost generosity in Ramadhan. Give more, you will be given back.

Finally, we must put our trust in God that He will remove the harm, we pray to God to cure all patients and immensely reward them in this world and the hereafter. We ask Allah to bless all those passed away and give their families patience for losing loved ones.

Stay Safe and we look forward to seeing you soon back to the House of Allah.

Ramadan Mubarak

Imam Abdul Kader

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: qaderqsis@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ToowoombaMosque/>

WhatsApp: Toowoomba Mosque Matters / MSA Toowoomba

Madrasah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083

Friday Khuthbah: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083

Daily night discussion: via Zoom, Meeting ID: 379 889 2083

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