

GUIDANCE FOR FRIDAYS DURING SECOND LOCKDOWN

Individual prayer on Fridays at the Oasis or in an accommodation during second lockdown

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend Jumu'ah prayers on campus until further notice due to the current severity of the Covid-19 pandemic here in the UK which has led to a second lockdown. We must ensure our settings comply with the national guidance, which is **"places of worship should be closed except for the purposes of independent prayer, service broadcasting and funerals."**

The Oasis will be open as usual for individual prayer only. Collective prayer during the week or Friday prayer (salah al-Jumu'ah) on Friday is currently not permitted under law. If you are on campus, then we advise you to perform the Dhuhr prayers individually on Fridays at the Oasis or at home or in your accommodation. If there is a possibility to pray in congregation at home with families or your household then that would be advisable.

Despite not being able to attend Friday prayer, let this not prevent us from maintaining the sacredness of Fridays in general. Although Friday prayer is the prime highlight of Fridays, the whole day of Friday is in fact very special to Muslims and there are many Sunnats (Prophetic actions) and acts of worship important on this day.

Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah (may God be pleased with Him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him) said: *"The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; on this day Adam was created; on this day he was admitted to Paradise; it was on this day he was expelled from it; and the [last] hour (the Day of Resurrection) will take place on no day other than Friday."* (Sahih Muslim)

Here are some prophetic guidelines for Friday that we can adopt into our weekly Friday routines:

1. Take a thorough bath. This is one of the first Sunnahs on Fridays.
2. Use a miswaak (Arak twig). The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him) would brush his teeth (miswaak) several times a day and highly recommended it for Jumu'ah.
3. Clip your nails.
4. Dress well on Fridays by wearing your best clothing at the prayer time and place of prayer.
5. Apply scent/perfume.
6. Apply oil.
7. Send blessings (salawaat) abundantly upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him)
8. Make sure to recite Surah Al-Kahf, (Quran; Chapter 18) as we are encouraged to do. This chapter offers amazing insights into how God Almighty operates which is difficult for us to comprehend.
9. Friday is a day of acceptance of du'aa (supplication). So, make du'aa abundantly, especially for those who are sick and for the removal of this pandemic.
10. Make du'aa between 'Asr & Maghrib prayers in particular, as this time is emphasised as being the hour in which prayers and du'aa are accepted.

While it may be difficult that we cannot offer Jumu'ah prayers and listen to the khutbah (sermon), most of the Sunnahs listed above are still possible for us to implement.

When using Oasis for individual prayer, then social distancing and other guidelines must be followed and the maximum capacity, as advertised on prayer entrance doors, must be observed.

Imam Vasi 10/11/2020