

Guidance for Fridays during second lockdown

Individual prayer on Fridays at the Faith Centre or at home/flat 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 and we need to ensure our settings comply with the national guidance, which states that "places of worship should be closed except for the purposes of independent prayer, service broadcasting and funerals."

The Faith Centre will be open as usual for individual prayer only. Collective prayer during the week or Friday prayer (*salah al-Jumu'ah*) on Friday is not currently permitted under law. We advise all to perform the *Dhuhr* prayers individually on Fridays at the Faith Centre only if you are on campus otherwise 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 (*salah al-Jumu'ah*), let this not prevent us from maintaining the sacredness of Fridays in general. Although Friday prayer (*salah al-Jumu'ah*) is the prime highlight of Fridays, the whole day of Friday is in fact very special to Muslims and there are many other *Sunnats* (Prophetic actions) and acts of worship important on this day.

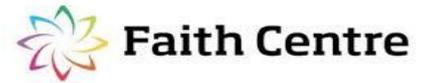
Abu Hurairah (may God be pleased with Him) reported that the Prophet (peace be upon Him) said: "The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; on this day Adam was created; on this day he was admitted to Paradise; it was on this day he was expelled from it; and the [last] hour (the Day of Resurrection)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

Here are some guidance/*Sunnats* for Fridays that we should adopt into our weekly Friday routines.

Friday, *Jumu'ah*, in the life of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him):

1. Take a thorough bath on Fridays
2. Dress well on Fridays by wearing your best apparel at the prayer time and place of prayer, as per Allah's command (Quran 7:31)
3. Clip your nails
4. Brush your teeth with *miswaak* (Arak twig). The Prophet (peace be upon Him) would brush his teeth (*miswaak*) several times a day and highly recommended it for *Jumu'ah*
5. Applying scent/perfume
6. Send blessings (*salawaat*) to the Prophet (peace be upon Him) abundantly, all day long.
7. Make sure to recite *Surah Al-Kahf*, chapter 18 of the Quran, as we are encouraged to do. This chapter offers amazing insights into how God Almighty operates which is sometimes difficult for us to comprehend
8. *Jumu'ah* is a day of *du'aa* (supplication). So, make supplications abundantly, all day long
9. Make *du'aa* between 'Asr & Maghrib prayers in particular, as this time is emphasised as being the hour in which prayers and supplications are accepted.

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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 all of us to implement. So, let us all make an effort to implement these during the lockdown, and in general, in our lives.

Stay safe and may Allah protect everyone. Ameen.