

20th May 2020

Eid-ul-Fitr under Government Restrictions and Lockdown

Assalaam o alaikum warahmatulaah e wabarakatu, I hope this letter finds you in continued good health and safe.

Muslims in the Walsall have been urged to celebrate the Islamic festival of Eid at home under lockdown.

Traditionally the festival at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan is marked with communal Eid prayers in mosques, visits to family and friends.

The Government guidelines only allow a person to meet one other person from outside their household outdoors with social-distancing. This means the prospect of holding an open space Eid Prayer will NOT be possible for any individual or an organisation without breaking the rules.

The UMO urges the residents of Walsall to perform Eid prayer at home and celebrate Eid virtually due to the social-distancing measures in place to help to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Tens of thousands of people, including children and women all wearing their best clothes in Walsall would typically head to Mosques in the morning to offer the Eid-ul-Fitr Prayer. Walsall Mosques, like other places of worship, have been closed for nine weeks. For the first time in British Muslim history, there will NO Eid congregational prayers being offered in Mosques in the UK.

Following the Eid Prayer families, extended families and friends would generally come together in each other's houses to enjoy specially cooked food. Children and families look forward to the Eid day to celebrate the end of the fasting month. Due to the Government restrictions visiting and meeting families and friends will not be possible either and it will be a big disappointment to lots of Muslims on a joyous day.

Walsall Muslims will have to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr virtually and share the traditional gifts by posting them in advance.

Mohammed Arif, Interim Chair, said: *"The Coronavirus is still a serious threat, and it is disappointing to miss out on offering the Eid congregational Prayers in our Mosques and visiting friends and family. However, as a community, we have shown tremendous discipline and restraints to comply with Government guidelines to minimise the spread of the Covid-19. We adapted to stay at home during the special prayers in Ramadan; we will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr by staying at home."*

May Allah keep every safe and virus free. Eid Mubarak to everyone.

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Unity is our Strength