

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL
ISLAMIC COLLEGE

1446 - Annual Iftar - 2025

Ramadan Brings us Closer to Allah

Delivered by

His Eminence Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Azhari

Founder: AIIIC

Grand Mufti – Jamiyatu Ulama Australia

At

724 Blunder Road, Durack QLD

Australia

Thursday, 20 March 2025



رمضان مبارك



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

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

I would like to pay my respects to the original custodians of the land on which meet, their elder's past, present and emerging.

Distinguished guests Hon Milton Dick MP (Speaker of the House of Representatives), Mr John Raven Lord Mayor of Logan, Cr Kim Marx representing the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Mr Adrian Schinner, MP Charis Mullen and MP Jess Pugh, principals and educators from various schools and colleges, religious leaders from Christian, Jewish and Hindu communities, representatives from Islamic councils, societies and associations, respected Imams, principals, teachers and staff of AICC, and invited guests.

On this important occasion of Ramadan Iftar, I would like to welcome and thank you for gracing this event with your presence.

I would also like to congratulate and thank Br Aziz Khan, the president of ICQ (Islamic Council of Queensland) and his committee for being part of this great event.

Al Quran explains the history and the purpose of fasting.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

'O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become righteous'

(Al Qur'an 2:183)

In this verse Al Qur'an confirms nations before Muhammed, p.b.u.h, were fasting, in fact every nation, every culture has some form of fasting in different and interesting ways.

In some cultures:

- you can drink but not eat.
- you are allowed certain foods to eat and drink.
- you can fast on alternative days.
- you can fast day and night
- you can fast during the day only.

Al Qur'an says about the history of fasting,

كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ

'Fasting has been made obligatory on those who came before you'.

- Issa (Jesus) p.b.u.h, had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.
- Musa (Moses) p.b.u.h before receiving the 10 commandments on Mount Sinai had been fasting.
- Ayoub (Job) p.b.u.h, had been confirmed that he had been fasting every alternate day.
- Sulaiman (Solomon), p.b.u.h, had been commanded by God the Almighty to fast 14 days.
- Maryam (Mary, Jesus' mother) fasted a very different kind of fast. Al Qur'an describes the nature of Maryams fasting in the following way.

When baby Jesus was born Allah commanded her to take the baby to Bethlehem (Baitul Lahm). The people of Bethlehem were confused and wondered where this baby came from. They thought that the baby was illegitimate.

Al Qur'an further explains that Allah instructed her when the people ask you about this baby tell them "I have vowed not to talk by fasting, you ask the baby".

Al Qur'an describes the conversation in the following beautiful ways.

يَا أُخْتِ هَارُونَ مَا كَانَ أَبُوكِ امْرَأَ سَوْءٍ وَمَا كَانَتْ أُمُّكَ بَغِيًّا
فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا
قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ آتَانِيَ الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا

'O sister of Aaron(Harun), your father was not an evil man, and your mother was not a whore.

So, she pointed to him. They said, "How can we speak to an infant in the crib?

The baby Jesus said, "I am the servant of God. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet'. (Al Qur'an 19:28 – 30)

Just for your information dear brothers and sisters, in Al Qur'an there is a chapter called Maryam (Mary). A very long chapter, the full story of Maryam has been discussed.

Islam honours, respects and considers Jesus one of the mighty messengers of Allah.

As far as the purpose of fasting is concerned Al Qur'an says.

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

'You may develop God consciousness'.

Ramadan helps us to be watchful of our words and actions in everything that we do

- The most essential physical need, food, water and sleep are readily and joyfully sacrificed.
- Our hunger and thirst no longer harmful. What the true harm is to go outside the guidance and commandments of Allah, our sustainer,

This is the message that Ramadan conveys to us.

Before I conclude this short talk, I would like to mention one brief message from our Prophet Muhammad p.b.u.h, about Ramadan (fasting) and the reward for that.

Allah, Ta'āla in Hathi Qudsi says,

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: قَالَ اللَّهُ: كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ لَهُ، إِلَّا الصِّيَامَ؛ فَإِنَّهُ لِي، وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ، وَالصِّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ، وَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمٌ صَوْمِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلَا يَرْفُثُ وَلَا يَصْحَبُ، فَإِنْ سَابَّهُ أَحَدٌ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ، فَلْيَقُلْ: إِنِّي امْرُؤٌ صَائِمٌ.

“All the deeds of the son of Adam are for himself, except for fasting, that is for Me (for Allah) and I give the reward for it”.

The above Ayats and hadeeth explain the special status of fasting.

May Allah accept all our fasting and our devotion, may He bless us all with good health, bring us closer to our families and our communities. May He grant us all peace, safety and harmonious coexistence.

Our special prays for the people of Gaza, Palestine and all the people in the world who are suffering.

Once again, I would like to welcome you for participating in our Iftar. Please enjoy the remaining program.

May Allah bless you all.

Wasalaam Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu
Ramadan Kareem and have a wonderful Eid in advance.

His Eminence Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari
Founder of AIIC
Grand Mufti – Jamiyatu Ulama Australia