



News of the week

Eid al-Fitr: Festival of breaking the fast

4/08/2024

As part of our diversity and inclusion awareness program we share information of various days of significance throughout the year. This month we find out more about Eid al-Fitr.

Recently Muslims around the world have been fasting from sunrise to sunset for the holy month of Ramadan.

As Ramadan draws to a close, it's nearly time for celebration – the 'festival of breaking the fast' called Eid al-Fitr.

More about Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr is a 3-day celebration and this year commences on Tuesday 9 April, officially marking the end of Ramadan and the end of the fasting period.

During the 3 days, Muslims will say specific morning prayers and celebrate with family and friends with a feast of traditional foods. Muslims greet each other with 'Eid Mubarak', meaning 'Blessed Eid', or

'Eid Kareem', meaning 'Generous Festival'. Homes are decorated, new clothes are worn and children and the elderly receive gifts.

In countries with large Muslim populations, Eid al-Fitr is a national holiday with schools and workplaces closing so family and friends can celebrate together.

The video [History of the Holiday: Eid al Fitr 2024](#) provides more information about the celebration and how the dates have been determined for 2024.



What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. The annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and lasts 29-30 days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next.

This year, the first night of Ramadan was after sunset on Monday 11 March, however, the exact date of Eid al-Fitr depends on the sighting of the new moon. This can lead to variations in the date of Eid al-Fitr in different parts of the world, as some rely on calculations while others depend on the actual sighting of the moon.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset with prayers playing a central role during each day. The day starts with a predawn meal

known as *suhur* and finishes with a communal meal ending the days' fast known as *iftar*. Muslims will wish each other a Happy Ramadan by saying 'Ramadan Mubarak' or 'Ramadan Kareem'. Non-Muslims are encouraged to say these during Ramadan to recognise this significant event in the Muslim calendar.

Did you know?

There are different ways Muslims incorporate Ramadan into their daily lives. You can find out more in an ABC news article about [how Muslim athletes keep training while fasting for Ramadan](#).

The ACMA will soon launch our inaugural *Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024-26*, stay tuned for more details.