

ECUMENISM & INTERFAITH RELATIONS

Muslims, Ramadan and Parish Life

Ramadan is an important month on the Islamic calendar. Here is a suggested parish bulletin item to coincide with Ramadan (18 June – 18 July 2015):

As part of our Catholic commitment to interfaith relations, please hold Muslim communities in your prayer as they enter the month of Ramadan (commencing 18 June). During Ramadan Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. At the end of the day they gather with friends, neighbours and relatives to break the fast, traditionally called an Iftar meal. Fasting is a practice common to many religions. In Islam the Ramadan fast is intended to stimulate reflection on human frailty and dependence on God, focus on spiritual goals and values, and concern for the less fortunate.

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful at Mass:

“For our Muslim brothers and sisters during their month of Ramadan; that by the bodily discipline of their fasting and the spiritual devotion of their hearts, they may find grace and favour in God’s eyes. Lord hear us.”

Further reading

- The above prayer is suggested by Fr Pat McInerney of Columban Mission Institute. See also his article “[Muslims, Ramadan and Parish Life](#)”. Reproduced with permission of *The Swag*.
- Paragraph 3 of [Nostra Aetate](#) (Vatican II)
- The following booklet is helpful for parish audiences: “[Ten Things Everyone Needs to Know about Islam](#)”. Published by Columban Mission Institute. Order form enclosed.