



Darul Ulum College of Victoria

28 May 2021

Assalamu Alaikum

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In addition to previous correspondence pertaining to the logistical arrangements and directives for our students' online learning, we write this letter as a courtesy reminder to our community as to how can this lockdown period be better spent.

This is an opportunity for us once again to put our breaks on our increasingly busy lives, only to reflect on the purpose of our existence by responding to Allah's order in the following verse:

*"Say, I only advise you of one [thing] - that you stand for Allah, [seeking truth] in pairs and **individually**, and then give thought. There is not in your companionship madness. He is only a warner to you before a severe punishment". [34:46]*

Insha'Allah, in doing so, we will derive significant benefit and positivity from that what may be perceived as negative, restrictive or overwhelming.

We can all appreciate that time will pass regardless of the prevalent circumstances, however, the wise individuals are those who consciously adapt their actions to suit the current moment they are in.

In stating the above, we are reminded by the righteous scholars about the importance of capitalising on such opportunities in attempting to observe certain practices and rituals.

Whilst the mosques are closed, let us attract Allah's mercy that descends upon His houses towards our households by calling the *Athaan* for the five daily prayers and by praying in congregation on time with our family members.

*"We revealed to Moses and his brother, "Appoint houses for your people in Egypt. **Turn these houses into places of worship**, establish prayer, and give good news to the believers!" [Qur'an:10:87]*

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "The entire earth has been made a place of prayer, except for graveyards and washrooms." [Sunan al-Tirmidhī]

Times of seclusion are Allah's given gift to humans for the sake of striving towards purifying the soul, softening the heart by cleansing it from its ailments, such as envy, bigotry, deception, love of materialism, only to mention a few, and to reinforce the bond between the soul and its Creator.

Our rituals and faith are not confined to physical movements and postures that are deprived from a heart-felt connection with the Creator. What can possibly be the outcome of a person who has fallen victim to a hardened heart when that same individual prostrates to Allah, but his prostration is detached from the tears of the heart?

Seclusion that is wisely spent eventually becomes a retreat for the soul and the body alike, whereby one cannot pass a day without the blessings of such a retreat. We learn from the Qur'an and the lives of the righteous ones that those seeking satisfaction and tranquillity in this world would avoid compromising with the following:

- Recitation of a daily *wird* from the Qur'an [a *wird* is regular daily practice]. This can be done individually, or in a circle with family members, or a combination of both.
- Recitation of daily *Athkaar* [supplications]. The suggested minimum daily *Athkaar* in the morning and the evening include, but not limited to:
 - *Istighfaar* x100 times
 - Salutations upon the Prophet peace be upon him x100 times
 - *Tasbeeh, Hamd* and *Takbeer* x100 times
 - *Tahleel [La ilaha Illa Allah]* x100 times
- Conducting daily *Ta'leem* whereby all members of the household gather for 10-15 minutes to read and listen to a few *Ahadeeth* about the Prophet peace be upon him and his companions. The aim of this exercise is to create an awareness about the virtues of righteous deeds and to be a means of motivation.
- Performing *Tahajud* [Night Prayer] on a nightly basis as far as practically possible, coupled with supplicating and beseeching Allah to grant us, our loved ones and humanity the best of both worlds.

Most importantly, let us utilise this opportunity to bond and engage with our children in meaningful ways. This can be achieved when all members of the household, including parents and adults, agree to a daily technology free time after-school hours.

Unconditional love, respect and dialogue are the prerequisites for nurturing well-rounded and righteous children. As a poet once said:

*If you gently straighten the fresh branches they will straighten up,
but wood does not soften if you amend it...*

May Allah keep you safe and may He enable us to utilise these opportunities in the best possible way.

[DUCV Management]