

What is 'Eid ul Fitr?

During the Islamic month of Ramadan, Muslims observe a fast from food and drink from just before sunrise all the way to sunset. They also participate in pious activities such as charitable giving and peace-making activities. It is a time of intense spiritual renewal for those who observe it. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a joyous three-day celebration called *Eid al-Fitr*, or the Festival of Fast-Breaking.

'Eid ul Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic lunar calendar. It is a time to give in charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of immense blessings and joy.

Before 'Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family who is able to do so donates something to the poor, whether in the form of money or food. This is to ensure that the needy can have a nutritious meal and participate in the lively festivities. This donation is known as *sadaqah al-fitr* (charity of fast-breaking).

On the day of 'Eid, Muslims gather in the morning in outdoor locations or mosques to perform the 'Eid prayer. This consists of a sermon followed by a short congregational prayer. After the 'Eid prayer, people usually scatter to visit family and friends, give gifts (especially to children), and contact distant relatives to offer well-wishes, often saying, *Eid Mubarak!* These activities traditionally continue for three days.

What is 'Eid ul Fitr?

During the Islamic month of Ramadan, Muslims observe a fast from food and drink from just before sunrise all the way to sunset. They also participate in pious activities such as charitable giving and peace-making activities. It is a time of intense spiritual renewal for those who observe it. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims throughout the world observe a joyous three-day celebration called *Eid al-Fitr*, or the Festival of Fast-Breaking.

'Eid ul Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal, the month which follows Ramadan in the Islamic lunar calendar. It is a time to give in charity to those in need, and celebrate with family and friends the completion of a month of immense blessings and joy.

Before 'Eid, during the last few days of Ramadan, each Muslim family who is able to do so donates something to the poor, whether in the form of money or food. This is to ensure that the needy can have a nutritious meal and participate in the lively festivities. This donation is known as *sadaqah al-fitr* (charity of fast-breaking).

On the day of 'Eid, Muslims gather in the morning in outdoor locations or mosques to perform the 'Eid prayer. This consists of a sermon followed by a short congregational prayer. After the 'Eid prayer, people usually scatter to visit family and friends, give gifts (especially to children), and contact distant relatives to offer well-wishes, often saying, *Eid Mubarak!* These activities traditionally continue for three days.

