



The Lord Mayor's Office

19 May 2020

Dear Friends

Eid 2020 – Covid 19

We know that the pressures placed upon faith communities as a result of social-distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic have been significant. Faith buildings have been closed to congregations, prayers and other acts of collective worship have been suspended and many of you have had to take the incredibly difficult decision to cancel public facing faith events.

It has been an extremely challenging period and we are acutely aware of the impact this situation has had upon individual mental health and wellbeing. We know that older members of faith communities have been especially affected, as we have seen most recently during the month of Ramadan and the cancellation of Eid prayers.

This follows the very difficult decisions around religious events including Easter, Passover, Vaisakhi and Rama Navami earlier in the lockdown and is likely to continue to impact faith communities throughout the year as social-distancing measures remain in place and we seek to guard ourselves against a potential second wave of infection during the autumn and winter.

We are extremely grateful to faith communities in Birmingham for being so patient with the lockdown and their continued full adherence to measures put in place to save lives and protect public health. We also offer our thanks for the huge contribution that faith communities have made to keeping the civic, social and economic life of Birmingham moving during these difficult days.

Faith has been at the frontline of Birmingham's response to Covid-19, working to support communities right across the city. Many of you have also worked closely with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council and the Active Wellbeing Society to provide much needed support to vulnerable families. Your contribution has been vital and a source of much comfort to our fellow citizens.

In recognition of this, we would like to work with you not only to provide some recognition of these efforts but also seek ways of celebrating religious festivals and events whilst adhering to social-distancing measure. We have received some suggestions and would like to work with faith communities in Birmingham to do this collectively and in support of each other.

In the meantime, we wish you and your congregations well during these challenging times.

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Lord Mayor of Birmingham

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