

Australia Bangladesh Islamic Council (ABIC) Inc

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Prayers and Timing as suggested by Sharia'

Prayers (Obligatory) 5 Times as it is in Qur-an:

حُفِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَىٰ وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ 2:238

Maintain with care the [obligatory] prayers and [in particular] the middle prayer ('Asr) and stand before Allah, devoutly obedient.

وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ طَرَفِي النَّهَارِ وَزُلْفًا مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ إِنَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يُذْهِبْنَ السَّيِّئَاتِ ذَلِكَ ذِكْرَىٰ
لِلذَّكِّرِينَ 11:114

And establish prayer at the two ends of the day (Fajr and Magrib) and at the approach of the night (Isha). Indeed, good deeds do away with misdeeds. That is a reminder for those who remember.

أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ لِدُلُوكِ الشَّمْسِ إِلَىٰ غَسَقِ اللَّيْلِ وَقُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ إِنَّ قُرْآنَ الْفَجْرِ كَانَ
مَشْهُودًا 17:78 وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا
مَّحْمُودًا 17:79

Establish prayer at the decline of the sun [from its meridian] (Dhuhr and 'Asr) until the darkness of the night (Magrib and 'Isha) and [also] the Qur'an of dawn (Fajr). Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed. And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] (Tahajjud) for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised station.

فَسَبِّحْنَا اللَّهَ حِينَ تُمْسُونَ وَحِينَ تُصْبِحُونَ 30:17

So exalted is Allah when you reach the evening (Magrib) and when you reach the morning (Fajr).

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا
الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ 62:9

O you who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the prayer (Jumu'ah, in lieu of Dhuhr, for Friday only) on the day of Jumu'ah, then proceed to the remembrance of Allah (Khutbah) and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.

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Apart from all this evidence there are numerous reliable ahadith confirming 5 times obligatory prayers which Allah Ta'ala has prescribed for His slaves. Performing these obligatory prayers is the best deed after having the correct belief in Allah and His Messenger.

Prophet Muhammad, may Allah raise his rank, was asked what the best deed was, and he said it was performing the obligatory prayers at the beginning of their times (al-Bayhaqiyy)

Prayers' Time:

Allah, ta'ala said:

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

Innas-salata kanat alal-mu'minina kitabam mawquta;

Ayah of Suratun-Nisa meaning: Certainly, the (obligatory) prayers have been prescribed to the believers to be performed at specific times. 4:103

Please note that the time chart for payer as hanged in almost all the Masajid is the time for Jama'ah.

Fundamental guidelines for timing of obligatory prayers are as follows:

Fajr (Dawn) Prayer [Two rak'ahs]:

The Dawn Prayer (Fajr): Its time begins with the appearance of the true dawn, which is a white horizontal light that appears in the eastern horizon. Time for Fajr prayer remains same until sunrise meaning the time does not get weak as it is nearing towards the end unlike other prayers.

Two rak'ahs sunnah to pray before the Fardh.

Dhuhr (Noon) Prayer [Four rak'ahs (cycles)]:

The Noon Prayer (Dhuhr): Its time begins when the sun declines westward from the middle of the sky. If the sun moves westward from its zenith, it can be noticed that the shadow will elongate and lean eastward. This is the sign that the Noon Prayer is in.

Four Rak'ahs sunnah before and 2 rak'ahs sunnah after the Fardh.

'Asr (Mid-afternoon) Prayer (Four rak'ahs):

The Afternoon Prayer (^Asr): Its time begins after the time of Dhuhr ends, and it ends with the setting of the sun. Hence, if the shadow of an object becomes equal to the length of that object plus its length when the sun was at its zenith, then the time of Dhuhr ends and the 'Asr time begins.

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Maghrib (Sunset) Prayer (Three rak'ahs):

The Sunset Prayer (Maghrib): Its time begins with sunset, i.e., the disappearance of the entire disk of sun. It finishes when the redness (evening twilight) in the western horizon disappears.

Two rak'ahs sunnah to pray after the fardh although some majhab allow it to pray the sunnah before the fardh.

'Isha' (Nightfall) Prayer (Four rak'ahs):

The Nightfall Prayer ('Isha'): Its time begins with the disappearance of the redness in the western horizon and remains until the appearance of the true dawn. Time becomes weak as it approaches towards dawn

Two rak'ahs sunnah after the fardh and later 3 rak'ahs witr.

Jumu'ah Prayer (Two rak'ahs):

Its timing is same as Dhuhr and it is once in a week on Fridays. Khutbah is also Fardh for this prayer. Four rak'ahs dhuhr (other than Friday) is reduced to two Raka'ahs for Jumu'ah prayers as there shall be khutbah in it before the prayer.

Four rak'ahs sunnah before and after the fardh.

Those who finds this guideline troublesome and strictly prefer to follow the clock, they may adopt the following procedure:

Fajr and Magrib times are very clear. They are before and after the sunrise and sunset.

For Dhuhr half the time difference between sunset and sunrise. Then add 30 min during winter and 45 min during summer.

For Asr half the time difference between Dhuhr and Magrib. That would be the Asr time as per majhab Shafiy'e. For Hanafi it is again 30 minutes later for winter and 45 minutes for summer.

For Isha' add minimum 1 hr and 12 minutes with the Magrib time. That shall be the beginning of the time to pray Isha'.

It is unlawful, without an Islamic excuse, to perform these prayers ahead of their times or to delay them until their times have passed. Extreme sickness or traveling (with certain conditions) constitute examples of excuse for advancing or delaying the prayers. Extra care to be taken so that no prayer is missed.

Hafiz Abu M Hanifa
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