



THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE OF IRELAND

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Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland

Muslims in Ireland

According to 2006 censuses, there are in excess of 40,000 Muslims now in Ireland. The Muslim community of Ireland is a multi-cultural community comprising of Muslims from various countries such as Pakistan, Malaysia, Somalia, South Africa, and Ireland itself.

There are mosques in various parts of Ireland e.g. Limerick, Galway, Ballyhaunis, Cavan and Letterkenny as well as in Dublin.

In 1992 Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum (deputy ruler of Dubai) agreed to fund new facilities for Dublin Muslim community and the construction of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland began. On November the 16th 1996 the ICCI was officially opened by President Mary Robinson and Sheikh Hamdan AL Maktoum. Sheikh Hamdan covers the running costs of the ICCI.

The ICCI was designed by the Irish architect firm, Michael Collins & Associates who won an award for their design in 1997 from the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.



Architectural Design of the ICC

The Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland consists of five interconnected sections (connected together by a square system of corridors). The mosque is the raised centre-piece to emphasise that it is the heart of the Muslim community. Distinctive black marble square archways mark the three main entrances to the mosque, two of which one approaches by ascending steps. The orientation of the Centre is towards the Ka'aba direction in Makkah in Saudi Arabia



On entering the grounds of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland, one first encounters a landscaped evergreen welcome. The dome and the minarets then come into view. In Muslim countries the call to prayer is broadcasted from the minarets five times a day.

The structure of the ICCI is merely ornamental and the dome has no religious significance. The apexes of both the dome and the minaret are denoted by copper crescents representing the Islamic lunar Calendar.

An arched niche called the Mihrab is the focal point; it is located mid-way on the wall facing the entrance.





The Mihrab faces the Qibla. From the Mihrab the call to prayer resounds before each of the five daily prayers.

Above the Mihrab inscribed in Arabic calligraphy there is the Islamic testimony of faith; there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger. (Allah is the Arabic name for the Creator, Lord and Sustainer of all the universes and all that lies within them). A noticeable feature of mosques is the absence of religious icons as these are believed to be idols and idol worship is forbidden in Islam.

Muslims are also encouraged to perform the five daily prayers in congregation in the mosque. On the Minbar there is a set of clocks to show the five daily prayer times and the congregational prayer time.

Located at the rear of the prayer hall is a balcony where Muslim women pray. The balcony has a glass front that is decorated with the common arabesque design found throughout the mosque. Muslim men and women pray at the same time but in separate locations due to modesty.



ICCI facilities

The facilities of the Centre are located in the Centre's five inter-connected sections; the center-piece as already mentioned is the mosque. The other sections are;

- The administration building; consisting of offices, including reception, office of CEO and office of Imam, plus a seminar room,
- The multi-purpose hall is used for sports, exhibitions and big conferences as well as other activity. Also it can be booked for functions like wedding feasts, meals to celebrate the birth of a child, Eid celebrations. For booking and hiring the hall, contact the reception on Ext:109114/ or Secretary on Ext:1065. Please note that all functions held must be



in accordance with the rules and ethos of the centre; non-alcoholic, no-smoking venue.

- Large public library opens from 10 a.m. to 6 pm every day except Sunday. **Facilities;** study area, internet, CDs and Islamic books in Arabic and English.
- Education sections for Quran school, Arabic and English classes.
- Women's area for study, prayer, & functions.
- A restaurant and a shop, which both serve Halal meat;



Arabic and Asian cuisine, are open to public 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Finally the fifth section of the ICCI is for Educational projects. The ICCI hosts the Muslim National School, a state funded primary school, with an Islamic ethos. The religious department is sponsored by the Maktoum foundation.

Programmes & Services

Adult Education programmes are opened for the public:
English for Ladies;

for more information please contact 01- 2080000.

Arabic for Adults (Non-Arabic speakers); for more details, please contact Mr.Ramadan at 01- 2080000 ext.132.

Imam's lessons:

1. Tafsir: Saturday.
2. Fiqh: Tuesday.

Times: after Magrib Prayer (Summer Time).
after Isha Prayer (Winter Time).

Youth Activities

For information contact Mr. Belkacem at 01- 2080000.

Tours

Guided tours available for schools, collages and social groups, please contact reception.

Visitors

As the Islamic Cultural Centre is primarily a place of worship, we request that visitors wear modest clothing.

