

## Christians accompanying Muslims during Ramadan 2021

Ramadan is a special month for Muslims. It is good that we, as Christians, should accompany them with our prayers during this month. To support this effort last year a daily post was put on St Vincent's Facebook. These posts have been collected into a little booklet: *Accompanying Ramadan*. This is available on-line at the website of the Archdiocese of Liverpool: <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/dialogue-unity>

This year also St Vincent's Facebook will carry a daily post. This will be an explanation of an Arabic word connected with Islam. The explanations will follow the order of the Arabic alphabet. Where appropriate, references will be given to *Accompanying Ramadan* (AR), the reference being to the day of Ramadan.

### (1) *Allâh – God*

*Allâh* is the Arabic name for God, used not only by Muslims but also by Arabic-speaking Christians. It is in fact a contraction of *al*, the definite article in Arabic, and *ilâha*; “divinity”.

So it means “the Divinity”, the One and Only God.

Confessing that there is only one God forms the first part of the Muslim's profession of faith. This is: *Lâ ilâha illâ Llâh* “There is no divinity except God”.

Belief in this One God is strongly expressed in the Qur'an in the following *sura* (chapter):

Say, ‘He is God the One. God the eternal. He begot no one nor was he begotten. No one is comparable to Him’ (Q 112:1-4).

Christians and Muslims are united in the worship of the One God (see AR 17).