

Black Lives Matter, Amazon Synod, Freedom Sunday

Walter Veith and Martin Smith

Act 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

[Gen 3:4](#) And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die:**

[Gen 3:5](#) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

Testimonies For The Church, vol. 2, p 43.1

We are forbidden to wrong our neighbor in anything. We should not view the matter from the worldling's standpoint. To deal with our fellow men in every instance just as we should wish them to deal with us is a rule which we should apply to ourselves practically. God's laws are to be obeyed to the letter. In all our intercourse and deal with our fellow men, whether believers or unbelievers, this rule is to be applied: "Love thy neighbor as thyself."



What Black Lives Matter can teach Catholics about racial justice

All the black Catholics I spoke with hope that the church will continue to change and grow in its advocacy against racism. Many suggested practical steps: transparency and concrete follow-up when releasing documents about the church's complicity in racism; Catholic leaders and clergy explicitly, consistently and continually calling out systems of oppression within the United States and white people's role in perpetuating racism. Many said the links should be more visible between the work bishops are doing and what the faithful are seeing. And, finally, **almost everyone I spoke with agreed that the Catholic Church will not succeed in its work toward racial reconciliation unless the hierarchy enters into dialogue with the Black Lives Matter movement.**

Father Trail believes this dialogue would be advantageous not just for the church but for the movement as well. "The church is in all aspects of society," he says, "I think that the Black Lives Matter movement can learn from the church in the way in which she dialogues with so many different paths of society. I think there is mutual enrichment all the way around."

Ms. Garza, one of the founders of the movement, would welcome such dialogue. "The purpose of faith, I think, is to be connected to something bigger than yourself and to be able to carry out the agenda of that faith," she says. Ms. Estes-Hicks echoes this sentiment. While she is grateful for the groundbreaking strides made at Georgetown, she says that the church overall must always challenge itself to do more. She believes a good next step would be entering into dialogue with activists within the movement.

"I don't see how the church can remain outside something as significant as Black Lives Matter," Ms. Estes-Hicks says. "It's a Christlike movement."

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2019/02/01/what-black-lives-matter-can-teach-catholics-about-racial-justice>



by JOHN HAYWARD | 11 Jun 2020

The Complex Funding and Ideology of Black Lives Matter

Political and corporate support for Black Lives Matter has become ubiquitous over the past week. Everyone's email inbox is bulging with messages of support from corporate sponsors, every website is covered with Black Lives Matter logos, and the group has benefited from numerous fundraisers and charity sales.

But, many people might not realize that Black Lives Matter is a distinct political organization, not just a slogan or social media hashtag, and it has both enormous funding and a wide-ranging political agenda.

BLM Funding

As the Washington Times noted in 2016, Black Lives Matter (BLM) presents itself as a plucky street-level movement with shoestring resources, but in truth it receives millions of dollars from corporate and political sponsors. The movement's funding gives a hint of how far its political agenda stretches beyond criticizing the excessive use of force by police officers.

BLM's major financial supporters include:

George Soros' Open Society Foundation – \$33 million

Bad Robot Productions – film studio involved in Star Trek, Star Wars, and Mission Impossible, \$10 million pledged to “anti-racist” groups. BLM among the first recipients

Cisco, electronics giant – \$5 million to groups including BLM and its own Fighting Racism and Discrimination fund

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/06/11/the-complex-funding-and-ideology-of-black-lives-matter/>



US bishops caught funding radical groups supporting riots, calling for 'death' to police

It is unclear how support for an end to the rule of law in the United States fits into the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's mission.



A new investigation by the Lepanto Institute has revealed that the bishops in the United States, through their Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), are funding organizations that support riots and whose goal includes not only defunding police, but even killing them.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the CCHD “is the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ ‘... to bring glad tidings to the poor ... liberty to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free.’ (Luke 4:18)”

Michael Hichborn, who runs the Lepanto Institute, pointed to four groups who have received money from the CCHD and are now agitating against law and order in the United States amid the riots in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/us-bishops-caught-funding-radical-groups-supporting-riots-calling-for-death-to-police>

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The Ugly Racism of Karl Marx

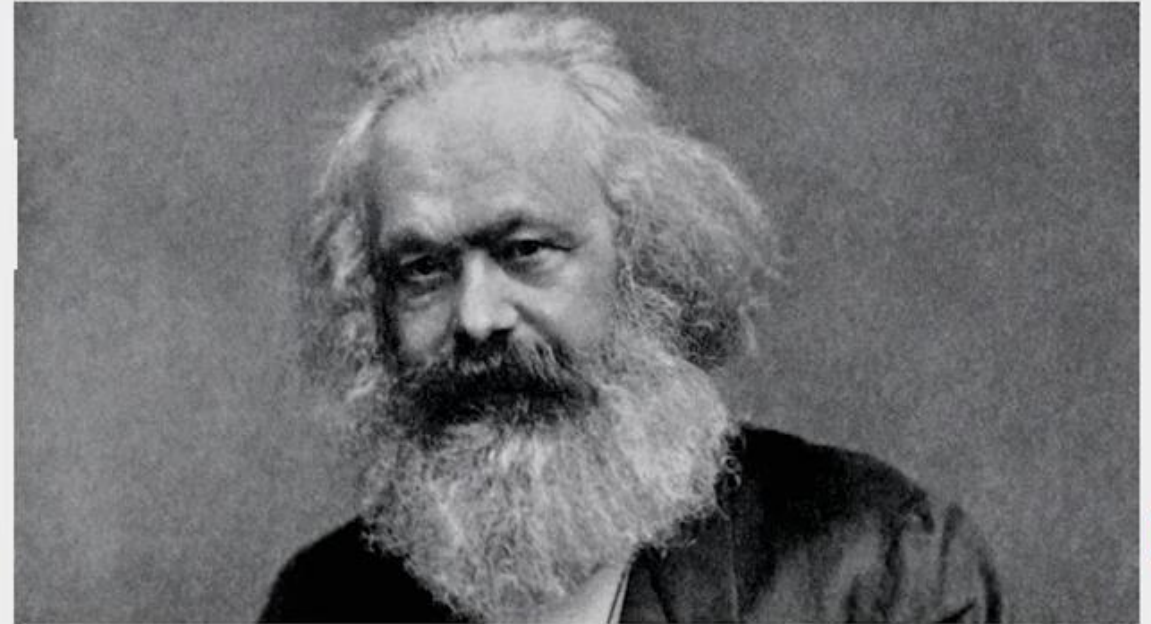
May Day celebrations were held all across the fruited plain, with leftist radicals and unionists worshipping the ideals of communism.

Communism is an ideology calling for government control over our lives. It was created by Karl Marx, who—along with his collaborator, Friedrich Engels—wrote a pamphlet called “Manifesto of the Communist Party.”

In 1867, Marx wrote the first volume of “Das Kapital.” The second and third volumes were published posthumously, edited by Engels.

Few people who call themselves Marxists have ever even bothered to read “Das Kapital.” If one did read it, he would see that people who call themselves Marxists have little in common with Marx.

For those who see Marx as their hero, there are a few historical tidbits they might find interesting. Nathaniel Weyl, himself a former communist, dug them up for his 1979 book, “Karl Marx: Racist.”



Councils For The Church, p 316.5

There is a large vineyard to be cultivated; but while Christians are to work among unbelievers, they are not to appear like worldlings. They are not to spend their time talking politics or acting politics; for by so doing they give the enemy opportunity to come in and cause variance and discord.

God's children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. Do not take part in political strife. Separate from the world, and refrain from bringing into the church or school ideas that will lead to contention and disorder. Dissension is the moral poison taken into the system by human beings who are selfish. (Gospel Workers, 391-395)

Fowler Museum at UCLA Facebook Page



<https://www.facebook.com/FowlerMuseum/videos/291479432259187/>

June 15, 2020

Black Lives Matter is 'a spiritual movement,' says co-founder Patrisse Cullors

"Part of our calling as people who do this work for Black lives is to lift our people up, both in their living, but also in their death," Cullors said. "The need to lift our folks up feels so incredibly spirit-driven for me."

Abdullah and Cullors touched on the practice of calling out the names of the victims that they advocate for in protests and demonstrations. It's kind of a way to invoke their spirits, Abdullah said.

Uplifting the names of victims goes beyond creating hashtags, Cullors said.

"It is literally almost resurrecting a spirit so they can work through us to get the work that we need to get done," she said.

By highlighting their names, Cullors said she feels "personally connected and responsible and accountable to them, both from a deeply political place but also from a deeply spiritual place."

Cullors touched on West African traditions that center on remembering ancestors.

"I feel like part of the story in the building of BLM was about remembering — and remembering our people, not based off of a white supremacist memory, which would be about slandering them and putting their names in the newspaper and showing their mugshots," she said. "But, instead remembering them from the place that their mothers and their fathers and their family would want us to remember them in."

Cullors, who grew up Jehovah's Witness, said she "was always someone who almost obsessed about our (Black) ancestors."

<https://religionnews.com/2020/06/15/why-black-lives-matter-is-a-spiritual-movement-says-blm-co-founder-patrisse-cullors/>



African Ancestor Beliefs and the Catholic Communion of Saints: Concord or Conflict?

BY ADMIN · PUBLISHED JULY 12, 2010 · UPDATED OCTOBER 10, 2016

Most if not all Black Catholics within the Archdiocese of Cape Town (ACT), South Africa, pray to their ancestors. Is this acceptable in terms of our faith? Does it amount to idolatry as some maintain? Should this practice be banned, as some Christian denominations have insisted? Can it be harmonized partially or completely with the belief related to the Communion of Saints? Given the empirical reality of the ancestor system of belief, along with other African Traditional beliefs, what should our response be? This article takes as given the fact of ancestor veneration and moves across to the theology of the Communion of Saints, seeking points of concord or conflict. As such, it deals more with Christian theology than with the details of the ancestor belief system. But the starting point is African culture.

SUMMARY (of 11 page document below)

... In regard to enculturating (or Africanising) Christianity, we use language, visual inculturation (eg. vestments), writing African theology and philosophy, and identifying parallels between the religious culture and Christianity, using the one to amplify the other. **Since the African ancestor system of belief has survived two centuries of Christian mission, we look at the theology of the Communion of Saints for possible coherence with this very important system of belief. This theology satisfies us that those who have gone before us, are not asleep, but are a constant presence to us, having experienced immediate judgement after death and immediate reward or punishment, and are in a real time communication with us. I contend that it is not only the canonised Saints who are in contact with us, but all those in heaven and purgatory as well, as there is no doubt from the documents of the Church that these are in communion with us.**

Some prayers for the Dead in Catholic funeral rites refer to raising up the departed on the Last Day, which to me refers to the Last Judgement which takes place on the day of Christ's second coming, after a personal judgement which those who died before this time will have already experienced.

In the same way that African ancestors need acknowledgement by their progeny, but for different reasons, our departed need prayers to facilitate the process of purification, purgatory. Those who have gone before us no doubt have a very special interest in our wellbeing, and being present to us, will no doubt pray for us. There is no problem, then, in seeing the departed as a benign presence, with our best interests at heart. There are many experiences narrated, subjective, admittedly, of some type of assistance and communication received from our departed family members. Ancestors are seen as mediators between God and humankind. The intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and of the saints (canonised or not), share in the intercession of Christ, which in no way rivals the Son's unique intercession, but enhances it. It flows from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on it, depends entirely on it and draws all its powers from it (Lumen Gentium 60). All prayer, whether directly to God, or indirectly through the saints, goes through the Son, there is no usurping of this route. The intercession of the saints, then, is a gift from God. **All the Black Catholics whom I have questioned, pray to the ancestors. There is no mysterious invoking of spirits. All also pray to Jesus.** However, I must express concern when people go to diviners for these agents to call up spirits. This is a questionable practice and dangerous spiritually. If the diviner merely claims to speak to the ancestors as intermediaries, there seems to be no problem, otherwise we are on dangerous ground (cf [1 Samuel 28:5-20](#)). In the paper below I set out various Bible passages which refer to the supremacy of Christ in all matters, and the need to purify the system of ancestor beliefs where there is danger that the central role of Christ is diminished.





Amazonian woman who led Vatican tree-planting ceremony reveals its pagan significance

The woman who planted the tree with Pope Francis says the aim was to 'satisfy the hunger of Mother Earth' and reconnect with 'the divinity present in the Amazonian soil.'



In an October 4 statement that went under the radar during the Synod itself, Ednamar de Oliveira Viana, of the Maués region in Brazil, says of the Vatican Garden tree-planting ceremony: “To plant ... is believing in a growing and fruitful life to satisfy the hunger of Mother Earth’s creation. This brings us to our origin by reconnecting divine energy and teaching us the way back to the Creator Father.” **De Oliveira Viana, who also guided participants in bowing down around the Pachamama statues during the October 4 ceremony, said regarding the event: “The Synod is to plant this tree, water and cultivate, so that the Amazonian peoples are heard and respected in their customs and traditions experiencing the mystery of the divinity present in the Amazonian soil.”** In section 70, Pope Francis states that the Church “needs to listen” to the “ancestral wisdom” of the Amazon region. He states that the Church needs to “listen once more to the voice of its [Amazon] elders.”

Did Pope Francis defend Pachamama idolatry at Vatican in new Amazon synod exhortation?

In section 78 of *Querida Amazonia*, Pope Francis states that people should “not be quick to describe as superstition or paganism certain religious practices that arise spontaneously from the life of peoples.” In section 79, the Pope continues that it is “possible to take up an indigenous symbol in some way, without necessarily considering it as idolatry,” adding that a “myth charged with spiritual meaning can be used to advantage and not always considered a pagan error.” and “certain religious practices” that could be interpreted as a defense of the use of the controversial “Pachamama” statues during the synod in Rome last year. **On October 4, 2019, Pope Francis hosted a pagan ceremony with Pachamama statues in the Vatican Gardens and even blessed one of the statues. At the ceremony, people were bowing down to the ground worshipping the statue. Additionally, the Pope prayed in front of the Pachamama statue at St. Peter's Cathedral on October 7 and then accompanied it in procession into the synod hall.** Also in the exhortation, the Pope compares the relationship Catholics have with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist with the “cosmic worldview” of indigenous peoples conscious of God’s presence in a “glorious and mysterious way” in nature.





<https://www.ijmuk.org/freedom-sunday>

Dedicate one Sunday at your church to end slavery.

Your church can help end slavery.

Freedom Sunday is an invitation for your congregation to learn about slavery and partner with IJM to end it. Dedicate a day to this fight for justice, and your church can help send rescue to children, women and men living in slavery. Pledge a date for your Freedom Sunday or join the global Freedom Sunday movement on Sunday 20th September 2020!

When you host Freedom Sunday, you will:



See the problem of slavery

With more than 40 million people trapped in slavery today, the scope of slavery is immense.



Understand God's heart to end it

Your church will learn what it looks like to 'seek justice and defend the oppressed' in our world.



Join us in the fight

Invite your congregation to join the fight to end slavery with IJM—until all are free!

Join over 15,000 churches who hosted Freedom Sunday in 2019!

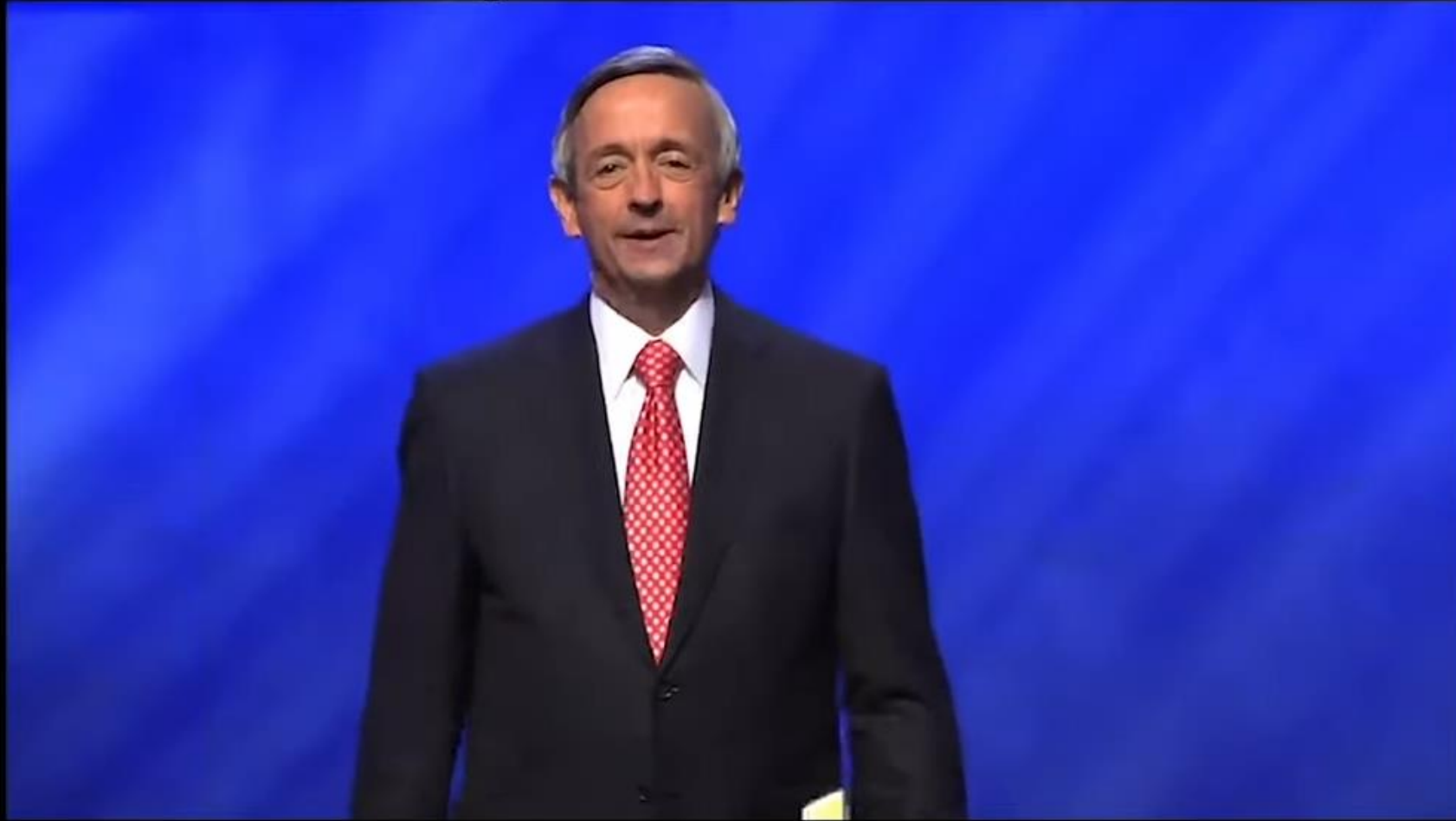


On Freedom Sunday, churches all around the world come together as a united, hope-filled, justice-driven community seeking to end modern slavery. We start with prayer, lament, learning, dialogue, and worship to inform and catalyze our response to this global tragedy. **Freedom Sunday is more than a day. It's more than a worship service. Freedom Sunday is a movement of hope.**

<https://www.setfreemovement.com/freedom-sunday/>



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Catholic bishop urges UK to preserve Sunday as a day of rest

A bishop has urged Christians to speak out against plans to relax Sunday trading laws in the United Kingdom as the economy reels from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Whatever economic advantages the government may calculate, the human loss will surely be greater if Sunday becomes just another working day.”

He said: “We would be discarding the Christian heritage of a shared day of rest and all the human values which the observance of Sunday has involved.”

“At a deeper level, Britain would be discarding a key element of our Christian identity for by logical extension either Easter and Christmas Day might equally be treated as merely another working day.”

“If degrading Sunday as a day of rest, of family, of community, of worship, marginally enhanced our faltering economy it would not be justified because of its deeper impact upon human wellbeing. This is a moment for us to raise our voices, so our Christian Sunday is not discarded by a political sleight of hand.”



<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-bishop-urges-uk-to-preserve-sunday-as-a-day-of-rest-58055>



16 JUNE 2020, THE TABLET
by [Tom Heneghan](#), in Paris

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/13047/french-archbishop-calls-for-monthly-lockdown-sunday->

The International Catholic
News Weekly

French archbishop calls for monthly 'lockdown Sunday'

French bishops conference head Archbishop Éric de Moulins-Beaufort has said the recent pandemic shutdown had shown both the planet and its people needed "a real day of Sunday rest" and suggested France designate one Sunday a month as a locked-down day.

Responding to President Emmanuel Macron's call for the faiths to share their post-lockdown reflections, he said the 10 weeks of "suspended time" had made people realise how modern life had led to "the constant acceleration of time". He said in his written reply: **"Many have heard the birds again and have been able to observe the arrival of spring like never before in their lifetime." Admitting it was probably "a waking dream", he suggested a monthly "real Sunday rest ... for people, but also for cities (and) the Earth."**

De Moulins-Beaufort, who is Archbishop of Reims, said: "Widening our horizons is probably the only way out of the trauma caused by the epidemic and the lockdown imposed on our societies."

The rapid propagation of the coronavirus around the world was "not due to the evil of a few but the many interactions among peoples these days," he wrote.

"Doesn't this lead us to think about migration? Why are certain people assigned to places on Earth where they cannot make a living?" He asked, saying societies had to consider both how to accept more migrants and how to help those who stay home to live there.

Strict action against Sunday lockdown violators

The city police have made elaborate security arrangements for the Sunday lockdown.

BENGALURU: The city police have made elaborate security arrangements for the Sunday lockdown. A senior police

officer said that strict action will be taken against those violating the norms. All flyovers will be closed and KSRTC, BMTC, autorickshaws and cabs will not be allowed. Grocery shops, medical stores, milk stalls and other emergency services will be allowed to remain open. City roads will be barricaded like how it was done during Lockdown 1.0 and 2.0, he said. Another police officer said, "We will keep an eye on those moving around the city and gather all details. Policemen above 55 years will not be deployed as per the commissioner's instructions. Also, many policemen are out of duty as they have been infected by Covid."

In all, 48 areas across the city have been sealed.

City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao tweeted "The lockdown begins at 8pm on Saturday and concludes at 5AM on Monday. Respected Citizens, just stay at home and don't ask for exceptions as this is being done in everybody's interest. Heavens wont fall if you postpone by a day. Pls exercise self discipline and cooperate".

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/2020/jul/05/strict-action-against-sunday-lockdown-violators-2165555.html>



Wednesday, Jul 22 2020 | Time 13:42 Hrs(IST)

Curfew on Sundays to control Covid: East Godavari Collector

Kakinada, Jul 18(UNI) East Godavari Collector D.Muralidhara Reddy ,exercising his powers under Epidemic diseases act-1897 and disaster management act-2005 has issued orders on Saturday imposing twenty four hours curfew on all Sundays all over the district from 6 am to 6 am next day .

The orders will come into effect from July 19 and in force till further orders. Emergency medical services and government services were exempted from this order.

However there will be relaxation for some time during curfew enabling the people to purchase essentials, vegetables and milk,the order said.

<http://www.uniindia.com/curfew-on-sundays-to-control-covid-east-godavari-collector/south/news/2085336.html>



Lockdown restrictions to be tightened in Yanam region on Sundays

Shivraj Meena, the Regional Administrator of Yanam, said in a release the stricter curfew would come into force on Sundays in the region from July 19 in an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Yanam is the first region in the whole Union Territory to announce a stringent curfew reminiscent of total lockdown.

The administration in [Yanam](#), an enclave of [Puducherry](#) in [Andhra Pradesh](#), on Saturday announced that restrictions will be tightened on Sundays in view of the rise in a number of COVID-19 cases. Shivraj Meena, the Regional Administrator of [Yanam](#), said in a release the stricter curfew would come into force on Sundays in the region from July 19 in an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/headlines/1135087-lockdown-restrictions-to-be-tightened-in-yanam-region-on-sundays>



JUNE 17, 2020

Bring Back the Blue Laws

CASEY CHALK



<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2020/bring-back-the-blue-laws>

In the United States on the seventh day of the week, trade and industry seem suspended throughout the nation; all noise ceases. A deep peace, or rather a sort of solemn contemplation, takes its place. The soul regains its own domain and devotes itself to meditation.

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote these words in his 1835 masterpiece of political and social analysis, *Democracy in America*. During America's finally-abating coronavirus quarantine, our nation, at least outwardly, seemed to have gained a more noiseless, contemplative, revivifying spirit. Now, in the terrible wake of murder, protests turned arsonous riots, and looting, not so much. **Nevertheless, Americans in those early quarantine days—after the haze of their Netflix-binge had evaporated—woke up with a surprised appreciation for what earlier generations had considered normal: Sunday laws, otherwise known as blue laws. As America returns to normality, we should consider these laws and their manifold benefits afresh.**

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

