



Focus on Religious Freedom

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"All the Nations you have made will come and Worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your Name. For you are great & do marvelous deeds; you alone are God." Psalm 86: 9-10

Trying to Restore Some Freedom to Worship at Easter

Santa Clara, CA: The U.S. Supreme Court rejected Santa Clara County's ban on indoor worship services, ordering California's only holdout to fall in line with the rest of the state following the Court's earlier ruling telling CA that it cannot ban indoor church services because of the coronavirus pandemic. "Banning indoor worship and yet allowing people to gather at airports...and retail shopping is unconstitutional - and the Supreme Court has said so several times," wrote Bishop Oscar Cantu. ⁽¹⁾

British Columbia, Canada: As of February, 2021, there were still no in-person Catholic masses, no worship services, anywhere in the province. Religious leaders are seeking clear guidelines but are losing hope there will be changes to the current policy in time for Easter services. Religious freedom law firms are now beginning legal challenges.

Greece: Christians had defied a government ban and held Epiphany services in January, 2021 and are expected to do this again for Easter. "State orders are one thing and faith is another," said a 38 year-old worshipper. "No law can order us what to do." ⁽²⁾

Scotland: The Scottish Government has revised its lockdown restrictions and said, "should progress suppressing the virus continue," it will permit churches to re-open for communal worship beginning on March 26 with an attendance cap of 50 people. ⁽³⁾

Italy: Unlike some countries, Italy has approved a fresh round of tight anti-Covid restrictions nationwide to be implemented between March 15 and April 6. The whole country will be at the maximum level of restriction during Easter weekend, April 3-5.

(mercurynews.com, 2/26/21(1); citynews1130.com, 2/8/21; us news.com, 1/6/21(2);
christiaitytoday.com, 3/10/21(3); inhuanet.com, 3/13/21)

"Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, the Creator of the Universe. That He governs it by His Providence. That He ought to be Worshipped." - Benjamin Franklin