

WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2020



1 Apr 8, China: The 11-week lockdown in Wuhan, the epicentre of the global coronavirus pandemic, will be partially lifted and anyone given a “green” code on a widely used smartphone health app will be allowed to leave the city. This is in marked contrast to many other countries where severe curbs remain

2 Apr 24, Space: The *Hubble Space Telescope* turns 30 and there are no plans for its retirement. NASA sees advantages in having Hubble and the *James Webb* telescope, due to launch in 2021, in operation at the same time



4 Apr 20, U.S.: The *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig blast in the Gulf of Mexico 10 years ago killed 11 workers and caused the largest ever marine oil spill. The anniversary will leave the Trump Administration scrambling to defend rolling back the safety mandates introduced after the spill



6 Apr 15, South Korea: National Assembly elections will go ahead, with the country cautiously optimistic over falling numbers of coronavirus cases. It sees President *Moon Jae-in* in a precarious position over the flagging economy

7 Apr 6, Italy: *Raphael*, one of the masters of the High Renaissance, died 500 years ago, on his 37th birthday, making his breathtaking artistic achievements even more astonishing



3 Apr 15, France: The roof of *Notre Dame* was destroyed by fire one year ago. The coronavirus pandemic is bound to slow progress on repairs to the Paris landmark

5 Apr 22, World: Concerns over coronavirus see Earth Day mark its 50th anniversary by going online, where the first-ever *Digital Earth Day* will continue to address urgent threats to people and the planet

8 Apr 29, Space: An asteroid big enough to destroy Earth passes close by. *1998 OR*, a 1.6km-wide rock travelling at over 30,000km/h, is the largest known Near-Earth Object to whizz past our planet over the next two centuries

