

Do we know right from wrong?

Issac Newton was a great scientist who asked questions about many things. One of them was why things fall. As a result of his work, he discovered the laws of Gravity, the law that describes how objects of different mass fall at the same speed, the speed of gravity 9.8 m/s.

If you look out in the sky, you may see a phenomenon such as the Starling Murmuration where thousands of Starlings fly together in synchronisation. Why do starlings behave like this? At the moment nobody knows for certain but Scientists believe there is a reason for this behaviour and no doubt in years to come somewhere will discover the reason.

Are there laws to explain the world around us or put another way, do natural laws exist.

Most people would say that in the physical world, science would find a way of explaining everything that happens. However, when it comes to human behaviour can we find laws of behaviour that bring happiness, wealth and peace? Are there laws of nature by which we should behave? Alternatively, put another way, is there a right and wrong way to behave in each situation we face.

The philosophy of our school proposes that there is a right and wrong action and everybody knows it. However, when we are propelled by personal desire not thinking of others, we ignore the natural law and seek a pleasant result. The result may be enjoyed but nature moves according to law, and a misused law produces a wrong result somewhere else.

So for example, we know that plastic bottles are bad for the environment. If we continue to use them because it is convenient there will be a price to be paid by future generations as our natural environment is destroyed.

The wise person knows that the desire of the Creator acts through the laws of nature. It flows naturally and there is no pressure. The moment one wants some personal result, pressure needs to be applied on the laws of nature and tension is created. Ignoring the laws results in disharmony and unhappiness.

In religious terms, these natural laws could be described as “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”. Therefore, when the Our Father prayer is said, we are asking that we follow the laws of nature of the laws of the Creator.

So in practical terms, in each situation we find ourselves, do we know the right and wrong way to behave? Are we acting from personal desire that is just concerned with I what I want or are we acting from greater need?

Hence, the challenge for this week is:

Do we know right from wrong?