

# THIS IS OUR FAITH!

## 14. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### Natural Law

Every country has different laws, and if we travel abroad we might need to be careful to make sure we keep to local laws.

However, almost all societies in all places agree on basic principles in the law. These are sometimes called "rights". Others are more like responsibilities. Some are put into law - others are instead values which people try to live by. Life, Honesty, Property, Family are all part of these.

We call these basic principles "The natural law", known by reason (not learnt or handed down), which is the universal moral law of human nature for living well.

### Civil Law

Civil laws are the laws which apply the principles of natural law to the laws of countries or particular societies. If Civil laws follow the natural law, then they should be followed - but if they do not, they it would be right not to follow them. Examples would be laws or societies which promote hatred, or genocide.

### Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments contain the main principles of the natural law, which were given directly by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments can be understood in three headings

- commandments regarding God,
- commandments regarding others
- commandments regarding desires.

### The Life of Grace

Christians also follow the new law of grace, the essence of which is to follow Jesus Christ in his Church.

### The Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S day.
4. Honour your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

### Prayer

*A Prayer of St Alphonus Liguori*

I love you Jesus, my love above all things.  
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will. Amen.

### The Rich Young Man

Then someone came to Jesus and said, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life? And he said to him, Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments. He said to him, Which ones? And Jesus said, You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The young man said to him, I have kept all these; what do I still lack? Jesus said to him, If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. (*Matthew 19:16-22*)