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J.M.J.



2025 Sydney Philosophy Camp (15th–18th July)



An initiative of the Holy Family Education Centre,
under the auspices of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP)

*“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding,
for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.”*

—Proverbs 3: 13-17

These July school holidays, all high school and upper-primary school students, with an open mind and eager to learn, are invited to join FSSP priests and seminarians for the “2025 Sydney Philosophy Camp”.

The theme for this year’s Camp is, **“The Transcendentals—Truth, Goodness & Beauty.”**

Today, more than ever, when truth is considered relative, evil masquerades as good, and the ugly acclaimed as beautiful, a return is needed to the authentic scholastic understanding of the Transcendentals!

In a fun and relaxed atmosphere, this camp will open up the amazing wisdom of St Thomas Aquinas to young minds. Its aim is to equip participants with a solid grounding in the fundamental philosophical concepts of truth, goodness and beauty. A right understanding of these provides a stable foundation, upon which Faith in the Gospel rests firm.

It is this solid foundation in the moderate realist philosophy of St Thomas which will also prove to be a defence against the confusing currents of strange ideas very much present in our modern, and increasingly secular, world.

As all knowledge and wisdom is vain unless it leads us to grow in love of God and neighbour, prayer and attendance at Holy Mass will also be a focal point of the Camp.

A feature of the Camp will also be frequent team-building activities as well as daily group sport and recreation. These will culminate in a group challenge on the final day of Camp, where teams (aided with their knowledge learned at Camp) will tackle an obstacle course, and compete for the coveted “Philosophers’ Cup”!

There are many calls on our youth’s time during the school holidays. But it is hoped that parents will encourage their children (having their greater good at heart), to forgo their other plans and spend four days at the 2025 Sydney Philosophy Camp, in the consideration of things transcendent! Having both a fun and thought-provoking time.



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We hope to see you on this years' camp!

A wise man ... built his house upon a rock, and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and they beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded on a rock."

—St Matthew 7: 24-25

God bless you.

This Camp's Chaplain and Director is Fr Thomas Sofatzis FSSP; the Assistant Chaplain is Fr Nathan Pospischil FSSP.

Assisting on the Camp will be FSSP seminarians, Rev. Mr Anthony Ike FSSP; Mr Binil Chacko FSSP, Mr Rainier Juanta FSSP, Mr Benjamin Jennings-Sio FSSP, Mr Alexander Kurkcü FSSP and Mr Andre Kurkcü FSSP.

Please direct all registration queries to the Camp's Secretary, Miss Gaby Nara
Email— fsspcamps2025@gmail.com; Phone—0414 404 861.

For all other queries, please contact the Camp's Director, Fr Thomas Sofatzis FSSP
Email— [tsofatzisfssp\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:tsofatzisfssp[at]gmail.com); Phone—0429 808 958.

Camp Information

When: Tuesday 15th July – Friday 18th July (School Holidays)

Ages: School Grades 5 – 12 (to be taught in 4 groups)

Time: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Venue:

<u>Children to be dropped off at:</u>	<u>Children to be picked up from:</u>
Maternal Heart of Mary Church (courtyard) Charles O'Neill Way, Off Thomas Street, Lewisham, NSW 2049	The John Berne School At the end of Charles O'Neill Way, Off Thomas Street, Lewisham, NSW 2049

Cost:

- Standard Fee: \$150 /child; \$350 /family of 3+
- No one will be turned away for financial reasons; scholarships are available, requests may be made to the Camp Director (Fr Thomas Sofatzis FSSP) or the Maternal Heart Parish Priest (Fr Duncan Wong FSSP).

Meals: The above cost includes meals (breakfast, morning-tea, lunch, afternoon-tea & dinner) which will be provided by the Camp. Please indicate any special dietary requirements or allergies of your child (children) on the relevant section of the registration form online. We cater for children who are gluten, dairy, and nut free. In the case of all other dietary requirements, you are most welcome to send your child with his/her own meals.



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Daily Schedule (Tentative)

<u>Tuesday – Thursday</u>			
7:30 am	Registration / Info. Desk Open	12:30 pm	Group Sport / Recreation
8:00 am	Morning Prayers & Holy Mass	2:00 pm	Spiritual Talk
9:15 am	Thanksgiving	2:15 pm	Holy Half-Hour & Benediction
9:30 am	Breakfast & Opening Talk	3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea
9:45 am	Session 1 – Philosophy	3:15 pm	Science Show / Presentation
10:30 am	Morning Tea	4:30 pm	Session 3 – Philosophy
10:45 am	Session 2 – Philosophy	5:15 pm	Dinner
11:30 am	Group Activities	5:45 pm	Group Assembly
12:00 pm	Lunch	6:00 pm	Finish

<u>Friday</u>			
8:00 am	Group Assembly	1:00 pm	Presentation
8:15 am	Final Session – Philosophy / Apologetics	2:45 pm	Liturgy Talk
9:00 am	Group Revision	3:00 pm	Solemn High Mass
9:30 am	Rapid Fire Philosophy Quiz	4:15 pm	Afternoon Tea
10:00 am	Morning Tea	4:30 pm	Assembly & Award Ceremony
10:15 am	“Philosophers’ Cup” Challenge	5:00 pm	Dinner
12:15 pm	Lunch	6:00pm	End of Camp

Registration

[N.B.: To encourage a positive atmosphere at Camp, parents are requested only to enrol children who are willing and eager to participate.]

Registration this year is solely online. To register, please complete the registration form available at bit.ly/sydcamp or by scanning the following QR code:



SCAN THE ABOVE TO REGISTER (or visit bit.ly/sydcamp)

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE MONDAY 7TH JULY

Please note: We will send a notification of acceptance by email (please allow a few days).
Registrations are not confirmed until receipt of this notification.



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Payment

- Payment by cash or cheque may be made on the first morning of Camp. Cheques may be made payable to the "Priestly Fraternity of St Peter".
- Should you wish to pay via bank transfer, please make payments no later than Fri. 11th July. the account we are using for convenience is the following:

Bank Transfer Details:

- o Maternal Heart of Mary Parish"
- o BSB 062784
- o A/C No. 100010841
- o Please ensure when transferring your payment you include CAMP_SURNAME (e.g. CAMP_SMITH) in the reference description. Please help us, and do not make up your own reference / description.
- o As a courtesy, if you pay via bank transfer, please email Miss Gaby Nara to inform her you have paid (fsspcamps2025@gmail.com).

Any queries pertaining to registrations may be directed to Miss Gaby Nara at the email address listed above.

Further Information

<u>What to bring (essentials):</u>	<u>What not to bring:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Writing book with pen or pencil	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Personal Food (unless to be shared)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hat and water-bottle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Electronic Devices (This Camp is technology-free. Children are not permitted to have their phones or other electronic devices, such as smartwatches or gaming devices)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Clothing and shoes modest for Church yet suitable for outdoor sport and recreational activities	

Travel: Parents / guardians are responsible for their child's (children's) travel arrangements to and from Camp each day (as well as accommodation during the Camp).

Sign-in and sign-out: Parents / guardians are to sign in campers upon arrival each morning, and sign out before departure in the afternoon. Unless, being of suitable age, you indicate on your online Registration that your child (children) will be making his (their) own way to and from Camp.

Early Drop-Off and Late Pick-Up:

- Two members of Camp Staff will be on duty from 7:30 am each morning in the courtyard of Maternal Heart Church for early drop-offs.
- Please ensure Campers are promptly picked up at 6pm at the John Berne School. Please call or text the Camp Director if you are running late: 0429 808 958 (Fr Thomas Sofatzis FSSP).



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Privacy:

All information contained in registration forms or collected during the “2025 Sydney Philosophy Camp” is confidential and for the use of the Holy Family Education Centre and the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter for mail-outs, follow-up, emergencies and administration. It may need to be shared with government agencies for statistical purposes or the police, where safety is a concern. Legal guardians of children may request to see or update this information at any time.

Use of Photos / Video:

During the Camp, photos / video footage may be taken of children in appropriate settings. We may like to use such photos / footage for the purpose of promoting the work of the Holy Family Education Centre and the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter. These photos / footage, for example, may appear in a brochure, or website, without identifying the names of children or their details. We seek your permission to use such photos / footage of your child (children) in this way. Please see the relevant section of the parental / guardian permission and consent form on the online registration.

Safeguarding Statement:

The FSSP and the Archdiocese of Sydney have a zero tolerance approach to abuse and the cover up of abuse. The FSSP abides by the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

Donations:

Please consider making a donation to the Camp—this will assist us in improving Camp resources or offsetting Camp expenses. Please contact the Camp Secretary (Miss Gaby Nara) should you like to assist. Email— fsspcamps2025@gmail.com

Emergency Contact:

In the case of an emergency please contact:

1. Camp Chaplain & Director: Fr Thomas Sofatzis FSSP: 0429 808 958
2. Parish Priest: Fr Duncan Wong FSSP: (02) 9572 9694