

Photo of the month



The Aquinas Convocation Ceremony stands as the crowning jewel of the academic year—a sacred celebration of toil and triumph, where the dedication of students and lecturers is honored, and each graduate's journey becomes a story of success. In a moment both solemn and sublime, the Archbishop of Colombo, as Chancellor of Aquinas, bestows his blessing and signature, sealing each graduate's achievement with grace and honor.

Pope's Monthly Intention for July 2025

FOR FORMATION IN DISCERNMENT

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.



Rector's Messeage



The name of this month, July, traces its origins to ancient Rome. It was originally called *Sextilis* in Latin but was renamed in the 8th century BC to honor Julius Caesar, in recognition of his birth month. As history recalls the legacy of great leaders and transformative eras, July invites us to pause and reflect on the deeper truths shaping our own lives.

In the Church's liturgical calendar, **July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus**, a profound symbol of His sacrificial love. It reminds us that Christ's suffering and death were not in vain but are the wellspring of our salvation. During this month, we are invited to meditate on the mystery of His Passion and to pray the Novena to the Precious Blood of Jesus, making acts of reparation and consecrating ourselves anew to His mercy. As we enter July, let us ask for the grace to open our hearts more deeply to the love of Jesus and to live lives marked by **gratitude**, **reparation**, **and thanksgiving**.

July marks a time of mid-year reflection and global celebration, offering a moment for both pause and festivity. Across the world, national holidays such as Independence Day in the United States (July 4), Canada Day (July 1), and Bastille Day in France (July 14) invite communities to honor their histories and embrace a spirit of unity and pride.

In Sri Lanka, the month of July brings a vibrant blend of spiritual and cultural observances that reflect the island's deep religious heritage and communal harmony. Highlights include the grand Esala Perahera in Kandy, a sacred procession honoring the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha,



✓ info@aquinas.lk

www.aquinas.lk

O 0117 389 115-22

and the Esala Full Moon Poya, commemorating the Buddha's first sermon and the founding of the Sangha. Devotees across faiths also gather for the Kataragama Festival, marked by intense acts of devotion and interfaith reverence. These observances, rich in ritual and tradition, embody the spiritual heart of the nation during this sacred month.

At Aquinas, July marks the beginning of the second semester for our academic community, as it does in many institutions. Students and educators return with renewed energy and a spirit of purpose—ready to engage deeply in the life of the mind and heart. It is a moment to recommit to the pursuit of knowledge, to embrace new ideas with courage and curiosity, and to continue growing in both character and intellect.

Environmentally, Sri Lanka experiences its **southwest monsoon season** in July, a vital time for the island's agriculture and natural replenishment. It reminds us of our responsibility to care for creation with respect and stewardship.

May this July be a month of grace, growth, and gratitude for all in our Aquinas family.

Convocation 2025

Address of the Rector at the Convocation on June 03, 2025

Your Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo and Chancellor of Aquinas College of Higher Studies, Very Rev. Fathers, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Registrar, Professors, Deans, Academic Heads, Lecturers, Academic and Non-Academic Staff, Silver Jubilarian, Graduates, and Parents, It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome Your Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, our beloved Archbishop and Chancellor. Your presence is a great honour to us, and we are deeply grateful for your enduring affection, wise leadership, and your mission of reconciliation and communion in Christ. We thank you for accepting our



invitation to preside over this special occasion as our Chancellor for the conferment of degrees.

I extend a heartfelt welcome to all the new graduates.

I warmly welcome parents and everyone here today to celebrate the achievements of our sons and daughters. This 15th convocation of Aquinas College is especially meaningful to me, as I mark my fourth year as Vice-Chancellor. Today, we officially confer 145 bachelor's degrees, and across these two days, a total of 1,715 students will receive their academic diplomas—a testament to the continued excellence and growth of our institution.

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement and the strength of character you've displayed along the way. Your dedication, perseverance, and resilience have brought you to this proud milestone, and today we celebrate not only your academic success but the person you've become through the journey.

You can take pride in earning a degree that meets international standards, a testament to both your capabilities and commitment. I am deeply proud of all you have accomplished. For many of you, this may be the happiest day of your life—and for your parents, most certainly. They have long awaited this moment, when you step forward as qualified, independent citizens of Sri Lanka, prepared to pursue your dreams and shape the future.

As someone who has walked the same path, I know the journey is not always easy—but it is always worth it. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Go forth and use yours wisely.

AQUINAS BULLETIN – JULY 2025

🗹 info@aquinas.lk

O 0117 389 115-22

Dear Graduates,

You are privileged to graduate from Aquinas College—Sri Lanka's oldest private, premier Catholic institution, and one of the nation's most respected centers of higher learning. As you prepare to leave this hall and transition from college life, I invite you to pause and reflect on the profound ways Aquinas has shaped your journey. You have gained knowledge, developed valuable skills, and deepened your understanding of your chosen discipline. Along the way, you've also formed bonds of friendship that will endure a lifetime. Most significantly, you've cultivated strong moral character, in alignment with our five-year strategic vision: "Be competent and build character." As you step forward into the world, carry these values with you—and let them guide your efforts to create meaningful, lasting change.

As the educator and philosopher John Dewey once said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." May your life ahead be a reflection of all that you have learned and all that you aspire to become.

The society you enter is complex and filled with urgent challenges—economic uncertainty, environmental crises, and moral disorientation. These are not distant issues; they are our shared reality. The path ahead will not be easy, and finding employment may be difficult in the current climate. But these hardships are not of your making. They are the legacy of decades of poor governance, which we must now confront and overcome.

You will be tested—not just in your careers but in your values. I urge you: do not settle for mediocrity. Do not lose your voice in the noise of others' expectations. Stay true to what you believe in. Follow your heart and your conscience. Pursue further studies. Let this degree be the first step in a lifelong journey of learning. Stand for the truth. Do not let wealth or power erode your ethics. Sri Lanka needs you, your minds, your voices.

Stand for the truth. Do not let wealth or power erode your ethics. Sri Lanka needs you—your minds, your voices, your courage. You are the generation that can shape a better future. This is your time.

Your Eminence,

With deep respect and a shared sense of purpose, we are pleased to present our vision for where Aquinas should journey in the next five years.

In the words of Rev. Fr. Peter A. Pillai OMI, spoken at our Convocation in March 1960, "Aquinas was founded not merely, as in every university, to provide universal knowledge, but also and especially to promote wisdom." That vision, articulated over six decades ago under the guidance of His Grace Archbishop Thomas Cooray OMI, continues to resonate today. It reminds us that education is not simply the transfer of information—it is the shaping of intellect, the nurturing of conscience, and the cultivation of character.

As we step into a new chapter, in an era defined by global uncertainty, digital transformation, and complex social dynamics, Aquinas College of Higher Studies must not merely adapt—it must lead. The next five years present a unique opportunity to chart a bold, purposeful course. We are called to build on our foundations with clarity, courage, and compassion.

Our strategic plan, grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, envisions Aquinas as a centre of academic excellence and moral leadership. We commit to nurturing the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—by fostering a learning environment rooted in truth, integrity, and service. We aim to cultivate independent thinkers, responsible citizens, and ethical leaders, equipped not only with knowledge but with wisdom.



This plan will prioritize five key pillars: academic innovation, inclusive community, research with impact, sustainable development, and transformative leadership. Through these, we will empower students and faculty to respond creatively to emerging challenges, to embrace technology without losing our humanity, and to serve society with purpose and compassion.

Ultimately, the future of Aquinas is not just about where we are going—it is about who we are becoming. Guided by our mission and inspired by our founders, we shall move forward with a renewed commitment: to form minds that seek truth, hearts that live by justice, and hands that work for the common good. Let us go forward—together—with faith, wisdom, and vision.

As In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the clergy, the Registrar, Deans, Heads of Departments, lecturers, and all academic and non-academic staff—both clerical and support—for their steadfast commitment throughout the year and for their efforts in making today's celebration a success.

Congratulations once again to our graduates. May God bless your journey ahead and may you rise to meet the moment with hope, wisdom, and purpose.

To each and every one of you, my sincere thanks. God bless you.

Saints of July 2025

July	Saints of July 2025	t G
July 1	- St. Junipero Serra O.F.M. (Apostle of California), Memorial	
July 2	- SS Processus & Martinian (Martyrs) /St. Bernardino Realino	
July 3	- St. Thomas (Apostle & Martyr), Feast	
July 4	- St. Elizabeth of Portugal (Queen of Portugal), OM	
July 5	- St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria (Priest & Founder), OM	
July 6	- Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
	St. Maria Goretti (Virgin & Martyr), Memorial	
July 7	- St. Pantaenus (Philosopher)	
July 8	- St. Raymond of Toulouse	
July 9	- St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions (Martyr Saints of China) OM/	
	St. Veronica Giuliani	
July 10	- Seven Holy Brothers (Martyrs)/ St. Amelia	
	Esala Full Moon Poya Day	
July 11	- St. Benedict of Nursia (Abbot & Founder), Memorial	
July 12	- St. John Gualbert (Abbot & Founder)	
July 13	- Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
	St. Henry II (Holy Roman Emperor), Memorial	
July 14	- St. Camillus De Lellis (Priest & Founder), OM /St. Kateri Tekakwitha	

YEARS of Excellence



July

July 15

July 16 July 17

July 18

July 19

July 20

July 21

July 22

AQUINAS BULLETIN – JULY 2025

∨ info@aquinas.lk

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, OM / St. Reinildis of Saintes

- St. Bonaventure (Bishop & Doctor), Memorial

- St. Frederick of Utrecht (Bishop & Martyr) - SS Justa & Rufina (Martyrs) / St. Arsenius

St. Apollinaris (Bishop & Martyr), Memorial - St. Lawrence of Brindisi (Priest & Doctor), OM

- St. Alexius of Rome (Confessor)

- Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saints of July 2025

() www.aquinas.lk () 0117 389 115-22

- St. Mary Magdalene (Apostle to the Apostles), Feast / St. Nohra

Call'

July 23	- St. Bridget of Sweden (Religious & Founder), Optional Memorial
July 24	- St. Christina of Tyre (Virgin & Martyr)/ St. Sharbel Makhlūf (Priest &

	Hermit), Memorial SS Boris & Gleb	
July 25	- St. James (Apostle & Martyr), Feast	

26	- SS Joachim & Anne (Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Memorial

July 26	- SS Joachim & Anne (Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary), Memorial
July 27	- Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	St. Innocent I (Pope)
	Indigenous Clergy / Religious Sunday. Theme: "Be Committed to Your
July 28	- St. Alphonsa of India (Virgin), Memorial
July 29	- SS Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Memorial
July 30	- St. Peter Chrysologus (Bishop & Doctor), OM
July 31	- St. Ignatius of Loyola (Priest), Memorial





EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025

July	EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025
1 st	• Life Education Programme - for Basic English & IT students at Don Peter Auditorium from 9 – 12 noon, conducted by Rev. Fr. Ranga Shehan.
3rd	 2nd session of Life Education Programme - for Basic English & IT students at Don Peter Auditorium from 9 – 12 noon– conducted by Rev. Fr. Ranga Shehan. Curriculum Development committee meeting at 9.30 a.m.
5 th	• Examinations – DCETT (PPH 3), ICT (PPH1)
8 th & 9 th	• Examinations – Diploma in English (DPA & PPH3)
11 th	Thanksgiving birthday mass at 12.10 p.m. for Fr. Nadeesha Jayakody
12 th & 13 th	• Examination – ICT (PPH2)
19 th	QMS Internal audit of the Faculty of Science & Technology

AQUINAS BULLETIN – JULY 2025

🗹 info@aquinas.lk

www.aquinas.lk

O 0117 389 115-22

5-22

No.06

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025

July	EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025	
19th & 20th	Diploma in English exams (DPA, PPH1)	
26 th	• Thanksgiving Birthday mass at 12.10 p.m. for Fr. Ranga Shehan and Fr. Manoranjan, who celebrate the birthdays on 21 st and 26 th July respectively.	
27 th	• 40th Ordination Anniversary of Very Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, Rector/Vice Chancellor, will be remembered during the Sunday mass at 12.10 p.m.	
30 th	• Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.00 a.m., followed by monthly thanksgiving birthday mass.	
30 th & 31 st	• Diploma in English exams (DPA, PPH1, 2, 3)	

EVENTS HELD IN JUNE 2025

3rd June

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 15th General Convocation of Aquinas College of Higher Studies was held on a grand scale at the Archbishop's House Auditorium, graced by the presence of the Chancellor, His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo. A total of 145 students graduated this year.

3rd June

The Diplomas Awarding ceremony of the faculties of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Business Management, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Education and English was held at the Archbishop's House Auditorium from 11.00 to 1.00 p.m Mr. V. Ranjit Pagem Deputy Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Cargills (Ceylon) Plc, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

3rd June

The Diplomas Awarding ceremony of the Department of English was held at the Archbishop's House Auditorium. Professor Aruna shanthaarachchi, from the Faculty of Social Sciences & Languages, University of Sabaragamuwa, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

4th June

The Diplomas Awarding ceremony of the Department of English was held at the Archbishop's House Auditorium throughout the day from 8:30 a.m. Professor E.A. Gamini Fonseka, Professor of English at the Department of Linguistics SLITT – UNI Malabe and Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Ruhuna, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

07th June

Journeying together for Better Care Solutions for Children

Catholic Care for Children International, in collaboration with Catholic Care for Children Sri Lanka, organized a meaningful day of reflection, dialogue, sharing, and collaboration to explore better care solutions for children. The event was held at Jetwing Blue Hotel, Negombo, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fr. Rector attended the meeting.



600

⋈ info@aquinas.lk

12th June

Education Exhibition

The Marketing and Student Enrollment Division of Aquinas College of Higher Studies proudly took part in an education exhibition organized by the Zonal Education Office, Homagama, with the aim of guiding students on higher education pathways.

The event provided an excellent platform to introduce Aquinas College's wide range of academic programs to students, parents, and school educators in the region.

14th June

Marketing Department Launched at ACHS

Aquinas College of Higher Studies proudly inaugurated its new Marketing, Student Enrollment and academic guidance Department. The Blessing and opening ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, Rector /Vice-chancellor of Aquinas College.

15th June

SPSS Workshop:

The Department of Humanities conducted an SPSS workshop for its undergraduates. The session was led by Ms. Dimani Hapuarachchi, Head of the Department. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the analytical skills of students, particularly concerning research in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities.

21st June 2025

Workshop:

The Department of Humanities conducted a workshop titled "The Value of a BA Degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences" for the newly admitted students of the BA Degree programme. The session was conducted by Senior Prof. Sandagomi Coperahewa, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Following the conclusion of the workshop, Rev. Fr. Chinthaka Perera, Priest-in-Charge of the Faculty, and Ms. Dimani Hapuarachchi, Head of the Department of Humanities, addressed the audience.

25th June

The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Thanksgiving Holy Mass were held at the College Chapel for staff members who celebrated their birthdays in the month of June. The Exposition took place at 11:00 a.m., followed by the Holy Mass at 12:10 p.m.

▶ The Zonal Education Department of Kalutara organized the "Cnext 2025" exhibition, which was held throughout the day at our Kalutara branch premises.

The event brought together students, teachers, and educational stakeholders from the region, providing valuable opportunities for career guidance and higher education awareness. Aquinas College was honoured to be the official sponsor of this impactful initiative, reinforcing our commitment to empowering the next generation through accessible and relevant academic programs.



28th June

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Spoken English for Professional Excellence and Spanish Language was held in the Don Peter Auditorium. A total of 230 students were awarded their professional qualifications.

30th June

His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo and the Chancellor of Aquinas College of Higher Studies, celebrated his Golden Jubilee—marking 50 years in the priesthood at St. Lucia's Cathedral in Kotahena, Colombo 13. All the priests participated.

PHOTO ALBUM JUNE 2025

Aquinas 15th General Convocation 2025



Award Ceremony II 2025

Aquinas Award Ceremony I - 2025



Marketing Department Launched at ACHS



Workshop on the Value of a BA Degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences





"Cnext 2025" exhibition



THE OLDEST PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN SRI LANKA



No.09

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for Spoken English for Professional Excellence and Spanish Language



ADVERTISEMENTS PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2025

