

# Aquinas Bullet



## September 2025





7/2025

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### POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

### FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF CREATION

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



MEETING VEDDA CHIEFTAIN

A unique and meaningful dialogue is taking place between members of the Aquinas College faculty and a Vedda chieftain, representing one of Sri Lanka's most ancient indigenous communities.

The setting, adorned with framed photographs and certificates, reflects the rich heritage and recognition of the Vedda people. The faculty members, seated respectfully, are engaged in attentive listening, while the chieftain, in his traditional attire, shares his wisdom, experiences, and cultural knowledge.

This encounter is symbolic of bridging academia with indigenous tradition—where modern education and ancient heritage meet. It highlights mutual respect, cultural preservation, and the importance of intergenerational learning. Such a discussion not only enriches the academic perspective of the faculty but also affirms the dignity and value of Sri Lanka's first people, ensuring their voices are heard in today's society.

September occupies a distinctive place in Sri Lanka as a month of transition, reflection, and celebration. From a climatic perspective, it marks the shift from the southwest monsoon to the inter-monsoon season, while in agriculture it signals the preparatory stage for the Maha cultivation period, an important phase in the nation's agrarian cycle.

### RECTOR'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER IN SRI LANKA



The month is also nationally recognized as Literary Month (Sahithya Maasa), a period dedicated to fostering the intellectual and cultural life of the country. Its highlight is the Colombo International Book Fair, held annually at the BMICH, which has established itself as the largest and most dynamic literary gathering in Sri Lanka. Schools, universities, and cultural institutions actively participate through competitions, discussions, and exhibitions that promote reading, critical thought, and creative expression.

**Spiritually**, September is marked by significant religious observances that shape the rhythm of devotion and reflection within the Catholic community. On September 8, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated, honoring the birth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose life embodies faith, humility, and obedience to God's will. This feast highlights her central role in salvation history as the one chosen to bring Christ into the world.

On September 14, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena and emphasizes the Cross as the supreme symbol of Christian redemption.

On September 15, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows reflects upon the deep suffering of Mary as she shared in the Passion of her Son, standing steadfast at the foot of the Cross.



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On September 29, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael revered as messengers and protectors, symbolize God's care and providence.

Within the Buddhist tradition, *Binara Poya* is observed, commemorating the establishment of the Bhikkhuni Sangha (Order of Nuns), a milestone in the history of women in Buddhism.

On the global stage, September resonates with values and memories of worldwide importance. International Literacy Day (8th), International Day of Peace (21st), and World Tourism Day (27th) all highlight ideals close to Sri Lanka's heart—education, harmony, and intercultural exchange. Equally, September carries the somber memory of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, when the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were destroyed. This tragic event, which claimed nearly 3,000 lives, reshaped global politics and security, and continues to be remembered annually as a call for peace, unity, and resilience in the face of extremism.

Month of September stands as a month that integrates literary celebration, spiritual devotion, cultural diversity, and **global awareness,** reflecting the multifaceted identity of the nation.

## **Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Felicitation Ceremony Honouring His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith**



A Civic Felicitation Ceremony was held on Monday, 7th July 2025, at the Archbishop's House Auditorium to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Priesthood of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith.

The solemn occasion was honoured by the presence of His Excellency President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition, and Msgr. Roberto Lucchini, Chargé d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in Sri Lanka.

Also present were Most Rev. Dr. Harold Perera, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka, the Auxiliary Bishops of Colombo, together with bishops from across the country, clergy, religious, family members, and distinguished invitees, all gathered to pay tribute to His Eminence on this historic milestone.





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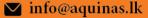




Patabendige Don Albert Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka Cardinal-Priest of San Lorenzo in Lucina **Motto: Verbum Caro Factum Est ("The Word became flesh")** 

Date	Event	Title
15 Nov 1947	Born	Polgahawela, Diocese of <u>Chilaw</u>
29 Jun 1975	Ordained Priest	Priest of <u>Colombo</u> , <u>Sri Lanka</u> St. Peter's Square, Roma, Diocese of <u>Roma {Rome}</u> , <u>Italy</u>
<u>17 Jun 1991</u>	Appointed	Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka
<u>17 Jun 1991</u>	Appointed	Titular Bishop of <u>Cabarsussi</u>
31 Aug <u>1991</u>	Ordained Bishop	Titular Bishop of <u>Cabarsussi</u> Our Lady of Lanka, Basilica, Ragama
2 Nov <u>1995</u>	Appointed	Bishop of <u>Ratnapura</u> , <u>Sri Lanka</u>
5 Jan <u>1996</u>	Installed	Bishop of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka
1 Oct 2001	Resigned	Bishop of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka
1 Oct 2001	Appointed	Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples
1 Oct 2001	Appointed	Archbishop (Personal Title)
29 Apr 2004	Appointed	Apostolic Nuncio to <u>Indonesia</u>
29 Apr 2004	Appointed	Apostolic Nuncio to <u>Timor-Leste</u>
29 Apr 2004	Appointed	Titular Archbishop of <u>Umbriatico</u>
10 Dec 2005	Appointed	Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments
<u>16 Jun 2009</u>	Appointed	Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka
5 Aug 2009	Installed	Archbishop of Colombo, Sri Lanka
<u>20 Nov</u> <u>2010</u>	Elevated to Cardinal	
<u>20 Nov 2010</u>	Appointed	Cardinal-Priest of San Lorenzo in Lucina
13 Feb 2011	Installed	Cardinal-Priest of San Lorenzo in Lucina







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### Eminer

With gratitude and pride, we celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni who have excelled in their fields and generously shared their gifts with society. Their success reflects the enduring spirit of our community.

### DATO' SERI LAILA JASA DR. N. RAVINDRANATHAN





MBBS (London), FRCS (Edinburgh), FDSRCS (England), D.OrthRCS (England), Diplomate, American Board of Cosmetic Surgery, International Fellow, American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dato' Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Nagamuttu Ravindranathan is a distinguished Maxillofacial, Facial Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgeon with over three decades of experience in cleft surgery. Since 1993, he has served as the Chief Cleft Surgeon in Brunei, establishing a comprehensive nationwide service for children with deformities. He was among the pioneers of cleft surgery in Southeast Asia, having founded the charitable cleft program at the Cagayan Valley Sanitarium Hospital in the Philippines, which he directed from 1989 to 2010 under SEDAFI.

A graduate of St. George's Hospital Medical School, London, Dr. Ravindranathan trained extensively in plastic, reconstructive, and maxillofacial surgery in the UK and USA, including fellowships at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital, London. His special interest is in **cleft rhinoplasty**, and he is deeply committed to providing holistic, lifelong care for children born with cleft deformities.

### DR. GAMINI GOONETILLEKE



A Surgeon Who Genuinely Cared About His Patients Dr. Gamini Goonetilleke A Doctor who Dared to Serve not only in Peacetime but more Especially in the Midst of War.

**Dr. Gamini Goonetilleke** is more than a surgeon; he is a symbol of courage, service, and dedication. From his early days at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, he excelled in both studies and sports especially rugby field, later earning his MBBS in 1973 and becoming a Fellow of the **Royal College of Surgeons of England**. Instead of remaining abroad, he chose to return home and serve his country.



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In 1982, he took up the post of sole surgeon at the **Base** Hospital Polonnaruwa, where limited facilities and the civil war created overwhelming challenges. With remarkable resolve, he established an Intensive Care Unit, created a special ward for military casualties, and treated thousands of civilians and soldiers with devastating injuries. Often working in conflict zones at great personal risk, he became known as the surgeon who always went "the extra mile."



Beyond his service in war, Dr. Goonetilleke shaped the future of surgery in Sri Lanka. At the Sri General Hospital, he trained and mentored generations of doctors, led the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka as its President, and pioneered workshops in trauma and military surgery. His contributions earned him the **Honorary Fellowship** of the College in 2002.

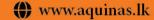
A gifted writer, he has documented his remarkable journey in books such as In the Line of Duty, The Extra Mile, and The Healing Cut. Through his writings and his website, A Surgeon's Tales, his experiences continue to inspire both medical professionals and the wider community.

Supported by his wife Shelendra, and blessed with children and grandchildren, Dr. Goonetilleke has balanced his demanding career with a deep commitment to family life. His story is a lasting reminder that true greatness lies in service, sacrifice, and compassion.

Dr. Gamini and Dr. Ravindranathan recently visited Aquinas College to reminisce about their student days. Back in 1967, they had attended Aquinas for extra classes in Advanced Level subjects including Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Physics. During their visit, they had the opportunity to revisit their former classrooms, bringing back fond memories of their academic journey.



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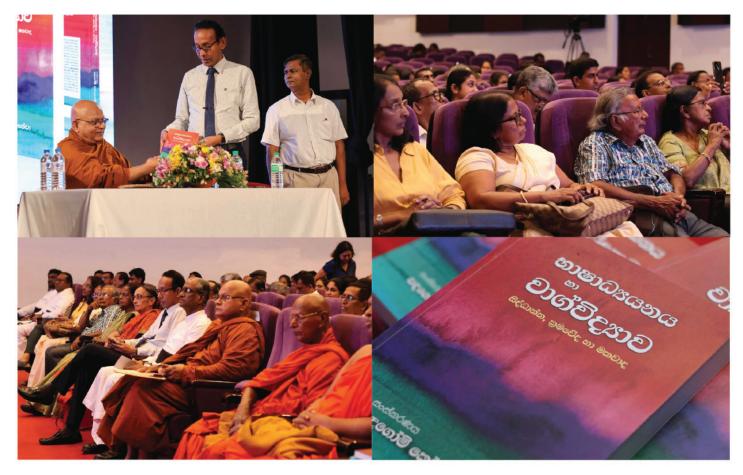


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The launching ceremony of the Sinhala textbook Bhashadyanaya ha Vagvidyava: Siddhantha, Kramaveda ha Mathavada (Language Study and Linguistics: Theories, Methodologies, and Ideologies), edited by Senior Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa of the Department of Sinhala, University of Colombo, was held on August 22, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the New Arts Theatre, University of Colombo. Rev. Dr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, Rector of Aquinas College of Higher Studies, participated in the event as a special guest. On this occasion, Professor Coperahewa presented a complimentary copy of the textbook to the Rector. Professor Coperahewa is currently serving as Consultative Dean to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Aquinas College as part of his sabbatical leave



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# Learning Beyond the Classroom: Aquinas BA Students in Dambana with Veddas

A group of 47 BA students (2nd / 3rd year) from Aquinas College of Higher Studies participated in a two-day Field Study Tour to Dambana on 29th and 30th August 2025 as part of their BA study programme. During the tour, the students conducted a radio programme at Dambana FM Radio. They also had the opportunity to attend a traditional cultural event of the Vedda community and to meet the current leader of the Vedda people, Uruwarige Wannila Aththo and visit the Wariga Mahagedara - Indigenous Heritage Museum. In addition, the students carried out field research in the village, meeting various families residing there. This study tour provided them with a valuable opportunity to gather first-hand information on the socio-economic and cultural issues, as well as the unique heritage of the Vedda people in the face of modern challenges. The field study tour was organized by Mr. Milinda Mayadunna, Lecturer in Sociology, with the support of Ms. Dilum Rathanamala (Lecturer in Sinhala) and Ms. Methzika Kariyawasam (Lecturer in Mass Communication). Senior Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa, Consultative Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Mr. Keerthi Rathanadasa (Visiting Lecturer) also joined the field study along with staff and students.



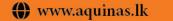








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### Pro Food, Pro Pack, Agri Biz & Knowledge Hub Exhibition





The Pro Food, Pro Pack, Agri Biz & Knowledge Hub Exhibition, Sri Lanka's largest annual international event in food, packaging, agriculture, and innovation, was celebrated its 22nd edition from August 22-24, 2025 at BMICH, Colombo, and Aquinas College of Higher Studies is proud to mark its third consecutive participation. Demonstrating a strong legacy of innovation, our students and staff have consistently earned national recognition—winning three awards in 2023 including Most Innovative Method to Promote Food Safety, and in 2024 securing the Best Green Innovation Award for Aqua Intel – Intelligent Water Testing Boat along with 2nd Runner-Up for Most Commercially Viable Process for Dhanthayu Nature's Smile Herbal Oral Care Pack. These achievements reflect enduring commitment to sustainability, innovation, and academic excellence of faculty of Agriculture.



















## Pro Food, Pro Pack, Agri Biz & Knowledge Hub Exhibition

### **OUR INNOVATIONS**

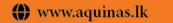
- 1. Avocado Vegan Mayo Vegan Mayonnaise made with avocado
- 2. Bilin plums- Bilimbi Value-added Dehydrated Product
- 3. Cassora Cassava Waffle Mixture
- 4. Ceyora Natural Bathing Set
- 5. Planet Chemical tablets designed to reduce post-harvest damage by slowing down the ripening of fruits
- 6. Cheese Flavoured Pumpkin Snack
- 7. CõBõ King Coconut Wine Fermented In Bamboo
- 8. Aurora Cacao Passion Fruit Chocolate
- 9. HelaSoopa Instant Multi-Legume & Dy Vegetable Soup Mix
- 10. Green Gene Herbal Capsule
- 11. Golden Deep Meat Dehydrated meat stored in honey
- 12. Natural Mosquito repellant coil
- 13. NutriGel Nutmeg Pectin Extraction
- 14. Olu Freeze Vegan ice-cream made vwith coconut milk and olu seeds
- 15. LONO PUREX- plasma activated water purification System
- 16. Pleco Pup Complete Pet Meal (Crumble) and Hydro Pleco Jelly Cube
- 17. Bio Shield bio active fruit coating spay
- 18. Flavored Salt
- 19. Smart Soil Tester
- 20. Eco Bo/Heal Leaves Tea Bag made with Boo leaves
- 21. Teeth Protector (Mouth Wash Powder)
- 22. Re-Leaf Wed application for the sustainable forestry
- 23. Seasoned Oil Canning of Fish Eggs; Brand Name Aqua Gold Seafood
- 24. Dehyn- Dehydrated Fruit Jam
- 25. Passion chocolate
- 26. Automatic compost bin
- 27. Chicken umbalakada
- 28. Blue storm beer Beer made with kurakkan and coconut sap

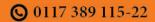




















## **Ceremonial Opening of the Aquinas Farm House**





The Aquinas Farm House, the official outlet of Aquinas Farm that sells farm-fresh products, was ceremonially opened on August 16, 2025, at the Aquinas Farm premises in Ragama.

The event was graced by Rev. Dr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, Rector/Vice Chancellor of Aquinas College of Higher Studies, who attended as the Chief Guest.

This significant project was spearheaded by Fr. Pradeep Chaminda, Bursar of Aquinas College, whose commitment and guidance made the vision a reality.

The ceremony was attended by priests of the College, staff members, and past students of the School of Agriculture. The new outlet will serve as a direct link between Aquinas Farm and the community, offering healthy, organic, and freshly harvested products.







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# **Saints of September 2025**

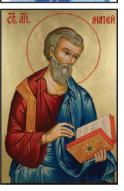
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September	Saints of September 2025	
September 1	- St. Giles (Abbot)	
September 2	- Martyrs of September (Martyrs)	
	St. William of Roskilde	
September 3	- St. Gregory the Great (Pope & Doctor), Memorial	
September 4	- St. Rose of Viterbo (Virgin)	
September 5	- Milad-Un-Nabi (Holy Prophet's Birthday)	
	St. Teresa of Calcutta (Virgin & Foundress), Memorial	
September 6	- St. Eleutherius (Abbot)	
September 7	- Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
	Binara Full Moon Poya Day	
0 . 1 0	St. Regina (Virgin & Martyr)	
September 8	- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast	
Contombor 0	St. Corbinian St. Poten Clayer S. I. (Apostle of the Placks). Optional Mamorial	
September 9 September 10	- St. Peter Claver S.J. (Apostle of the Blacks), Optional Memorial	
September 11	- St. Nicholas of Tolentino (Confessor) - St. Jean Gabriel Perboyre (Priest & Martyr)	
September 11	St. Paphnutius the Great	
September 12	- The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Optional Memorial	
September 12	St. Guy of Anderlecht	
September 13	- St. John Chrysostom (Bishop & Doctor), Memorial	
September 14	- Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
_	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast	
	St. Albert (Patriarch of Jerusalem)	
September 15	- Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial	
	St. Catherine of Genoa	
September 16	- SS Cornelius (Pope) & Cyprian (Bishop & Martyr), Memorials	
September 17	- St. Robert Bellarmine (Bishop & Doctor), Optional Memorial	
0-4-1-10	St. Hildegard of Bingen	
September 18	- St. Joseph of Cupertino (Mystic)	
September 19 September 20	- St. Januarius (Bishop & Martyr), Optional Memorial - SS Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn (Priest) & Paul Chŏng Ha-sang & Companions	
September 20	(Martyrs), Memorials	
September 21	- Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
September 21	National Catechetical Sunday	
	St. Matthew (Apostle & Evangelist), Feast	
September 22	- St. Thomas of Villanova (Religious & Bishop)	
_	St. Maurice & Companions (Martyrs)	
September 23	- St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) (Priest, Mystic & Stigmatist), Memorial	
September 24	- Our Lady of Ransom	
	Martyrs of Chalcedon	
	St. Gerard Sagredo	
September 25	- St. Ceolfrid (Abbot)	
September 26	- SS Cosmas & Damian (Martyrs), Memorial	
September 27	- St. Vincent de Paul (Priest), Memorial	
	World Tourism Day	
Ct120	ACHS Annual Sports Fiesta	
September 28	- Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time St. Wenceslaus (Martyr)	
	St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions (Martyrs), Memorials	
	111th World Migrants & Refugees Day	
September 29	- SS Michael, Raphael & Gabriel (Archangels), Feast	
September 30	- St. Jerome (Hermit & Doctor), Memorial	
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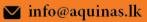


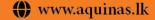


## Rare & Oldest Book in ACHS Library

Author	Title	Acc.No & Call No	Published Year		
COLLECTION OF BOOKS ABOUT DUTCH, PORTUGUES & BRITISH					
	Portuguese maps and plans of ceylon	14269 954.93	1650		
Raven-Hart,R	German in Dutch Ceylon	37956 954.93	1669		
Schreuder,Jan	Selections from the Dutch records of the Ceylon Government	45665 954.93	1762		
Perera,Edward W	My Mission To England	43077 320.15	1848		
COLLECTION OF HISTORY BOOKS					
Knox,Robet	An Historycal relation of the Island Ceylon - VOL.1	36148 954.93	1681		
Cordiner, James	A Description of Ceylon	67700 915.493	1807		
Knighton, W	Forest Life in Ceylon	67713 915.49	1854		
Haafner, J	Travels on Foot Through the Island of Ceylon	T-1615 915.493	1821		
COLLECTION OF BOOKS ON CEYLON					
Marshall, Henry	Ceylon : A General Description of the Island and its Inhabitants	T-1614 954.93	1846		
Tennent, James E	Ceylon: An account of the Island Physical, Historical, and Topographical Volume I & II -	14230 954.8	1859		

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### **EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2025**

DATE	EVENT
3rd	B.Sc Agriculture – Field Visit to Biyagama
4th	ICT Exam – PPH-1 / Diploma in English PPA
9th	ICT Exam – PPH-1
10th & 11th	Orientation – Dept. of English- DPA
13th	Exam – DITT – PPH-2 Martin Wickremasinghe Seminar and Book Exhibition And screening of the Gamperaliya movie – PPH
15th to 26th	School of Agriculture Exam – DPA
24th	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.00 & Thanksgiving Birthday Mass at 12.10 p.m.
27th	ACHS – SPORTS FIESTA- Colombo Campus Grounds
29th & 30th	School of Agriculture – Exam - DPA

## **EVENTS HELD IN AUGUST 2025**

#### 07th August - Staff Annual Day Out

The Staff Annual Day was held at Suriya Resort, Negombo, with the participation of all academic and non-academic staff, including members from the branch schools and the community of priests. It was a joyful and memorable occasion, celebrated in a spirit of unity and togetherness, like one big family.

#### 15th August – Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Day of Obligation, was celebrated with Holy Mass at 7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. in the College Chapel. The Holy Rosary was recited at 11:45 a.m., preceding the midday Mass.

#### 15th August - Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Aquinas Staff Private Provident Fund was held at 3:00 p.m. in the Cardinal Cooray Auditorium, during which new committee members were elected to serve for the upcoming year.

#### 16th August – Orientation Programme (BIT Intake)

The Orientation Programme for the 2025 BIT Intake, organized by the Department of ICT, commenced at 8:45 a.m. in the Cardinal Cooray Auditorium.

#### 16th August - Official Opening of Aquinas Farm Outlet

The Aquinas Farm Outlet at Walpola, Ragama, was officially opened at 10:30 a.m. The event was graced by distinguished guests, members of the Past Pupils' Association, staff, and invitees, who gathered to celebrate this milestone.



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#### 16th August – "Back to Farm"

The "Back to Farm" programme, organized by the Past Pupils' Association of the Aquinas College School of Agriculture, was held from 1:00 p.m. onwards at the ACHS Farm, Walpola, Ragama.

#### 17th August - Day Out for Non-Academic Supportive Staff

A special day out was organized in Pannala for the non-academic supportive staff, including those from the branch schools, with the participation of the community of priests.

#### 17th August – Department of Humanities Field Visit (Stage Drama)

The Department of Humanities organized a visit to the University of Peradeniya to watch the stage drama Sinhabahu. Lecturers Ms. Dilum Rathnamala and Mr. Milinda Mayadunna accompanied the undergraduates for this educational and cultural experience.

#### 22nd, 23rd & 24th August - Pro Food Pro Pack Ag-Biz 2025

The international exhibition Pro Food Pro Pack Ag-Biz 2025, organized by the Sri Lanka Food Processors Association (SLFPA), was held at BMICH, Colombo. Students from the Faculty of Agriculture actively participated, showcasing their innovative products in processed food, beverage packaging, and agricultural solutions.

### 28th August – Orientation Programme (Psychology and Counselling)

The Orientation Programme for the B.Sc. in Psychology and Counselling – 2025 Weekday Intake was held at 9:30 a.m. in the Cardinal Cooray Auditorium.

#### 29th & 30th August - Field Visit to Dambana

The Department of Humanities organized a field visit to Dambana. Students participated in a radio programme, and on the evening of the 29th, a cultural programme was held with the participation of the Indigenous community and the undergraduates. Staff members also joined the students in this memorable learning experience.

### 30th August - Orientation Programme (Professional English, IT, and CICPT)

The Orientation Programme for Professional English, IT, and CICPT – 2025 Intake was held at 9:00 a.m. in the Cardinal Cooray Auditorium.

### **PHOTO ALBUM AUGUST 2025**

**Orientation Programme (BIT Intake)** 









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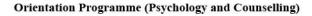
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Orientation Programme (Professional English, IT, and CICPT)



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