



Since 1954

Aquinas Bulletin

71
 YEARS
 of Excellence
 1954 - 2025


August 2025

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Photo of the month



A group of students participated in an outdoor hands-on activity at our Raga Farm, focusing on agriculture, construction, and teamwork training. In the activity, a woman is seen holding a piece of rope while assisting a man cutting and preparing a long plant stem or bamboo strip, with the rope being used for measuring or tying. Other participants gathered around to observe or lend a hand, creating a lively atmosphere of teamwork, practical skill-building, and collaboration.

This session was part of the Coconut Development Programme on Sustainable Cultivation Management of Coconut, conducted for all students enrolled in the Higher National/National Diploma in Agricultural Production Technology (NVQ Level 5 & 6) at the School of Agriculture. The programme was organized by the Coconut Cultivation Board – Gampaha Area.

Pope's Monthly Intention for August 2025

FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.



Rector's Message

August – A Month of Gratitude, Remembrance, and Renewal

August invites us to pause, reflect, and celebrate significant milestones of faith, history, and humanity's enduring spirit.

We honour the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (August 15), a sacred celebration of hope, purity, and the promise of eternal life. Across the globe, many nations mark their **independence milestones** this month, reminding us of the sacrifices made for freedom and our ongoing responsibility to safeguard it. We also observe **International Youth Day** (August 12), affirming the vital role of young people as the dreamers and builders of a better tomorrow.



In Sri Lanka, August is rich with religious and cultural significance. Key events include the majestic **Esala Perahera** in Kandy, honoring the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha; **Nikini Full Moon Poya Day**, marking the first Buddhist council and the start of the monks' retreat; and the **Madhu Church Annual Festival** on August 15, drawing thousands to celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—a feast also observed in Catholic parishes nationwide.

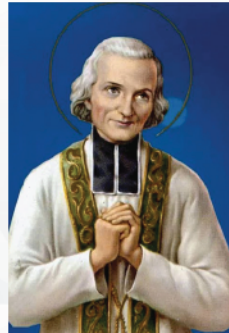
August also calls us to remember two martyrs of Auschwitz: **St. Maximilian Kolbe** and **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**. Their heroic witness challenges us to pray fervently that such inhumanity never be repeated. Today, with the acceptance of practices such as euthanasia, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and IVF, we face new moral challenges—steps that dangerously question the dignity of human life.



Let us take time this month to learn about Auschwitz, reflect on its horrors, and recognize the “modern gas chambers” in our own era. May we commit ourselves to ending all forms of killing and upholding the dignity of every human person. May August be filled with God’s peace, joy, and blessings, guiding your steps and lighting your path each day.

Saints of August 2025

August	Saints of August 2025
August 1	- St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori (Founder, Bishop & Doctor), Memorial
August 2	- St. Eusebius of Vercelli (Bishop), Optional Memorial St. Peter Julian Eymard (Priest), Memorial
August 3	- Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time St. Lydia of Thyatira St. Waltheof of Melrose
August 4	- St. John Mary Vianney (Patron of Parish Priests), Memorial
August 5	- The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, OM St. Oswald of Northumbria
August 6	- The Transfiguration of the Lord, Feast / St. Maria Francesca Rubatto
August 7	- St. Sixtus II (Pope & Martyr) & Companions (Martyrs), OM St. Cajetan (Priest), Memorial
August 8	- St. Dominic (Priest & Founder), Memorial / St. Mary Helen MacKillop
August 9	- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Virgin & Martyr), OM
August 10	- Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time / St. Lawrence (Deacon & Martyr), Feast
August 11	- St. Clare of Assisi (Virgin & Founder), Memorial
August 12	- St. Jane Frances de Chantal (Religious & Foundress), OM / St. Murtagh
August 13	- SS Pontian (Pope & Martyr) & Hippolytus (Priest & Martyr), OM
August 14	- St. Maximilian Kolbe (Priest & Martyr), Memorial St. Antonio Primaldo & Companions (Martyrs)
August 15	- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity / St. Isidore Bakanja
August 16	- St. Stephen I (King of Hungary), Optional Memorial
August 17	- Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time / St. Hyacinth (Priest)
August 18	- St. Helena of Constantinople (Empress)
August 19	- St. John Eudes (Priest & Founder), OM
August 20	- St. Bernard of Clairvaux (Abbot & Doctor), Memorial
August 21	- St. Pius X (Pope), Memorial
August 22	- The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial / St. John Kemble
August 23	- St. Rose of Lima (Virgin), OM
August 24	- Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time / St. Bartholomew (Apostle), Feast
August 25	- St. Joseph Calasanz (Priest & Founder), OM / St. Louis IX
August 26	- St. Mary of Jesus Crucified (Virgin & Stigmatist)
August 27	- St. Monica (Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo), Memorial
August 28	- St. Augustine of Hippo (Bishop & Doctor), Memorial
August 29	- The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, Memorial / St. Sabina
August 30	- St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal (Virgin)
August 31	- Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time / St. Raymond Nonnatus (Priest) Sick day at Tewatte Shrine.





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EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2025

August	EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2025
1 st	▪ B.Ed Examination
2 nd	▪ Academic Senate monthly meeting at 2.00 p.m. ▪ B.Ed Examination – DPA
3 rd	▪ B.Ed Examination – DPA
6 th	▪ Diploma in English Exam
7 th	▪ Staff Annual Day out – Suriya Resort Negombo ▪ Asiri Hospital – Examination DPA
9 th	▪ Medical College Colombo – Examination DPA ▪ B.Ed Examination PPH 1
10 th	▪ B.Ed Examination PPH 1
13 th	▪ Diploma in English Exam
15 th	▪ ACHS Staff PPF Annual General Meeting at 3.00 p.m.
16 th	▪ BIT Orientation programme – 8.45 a.m. ▪ Diploma in English Examination ▪ 'Back to Farm' programme at Ragama Farm premises ▪ Official opening of the Farm shop
17 th	▪ Plantation Management Examination
19 th	▪ B.Sc Agriculture Examination
20 th	▪ Diploma in English Examination
22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th	▪ Pro-Food Exhibition at BMICH
23 rd & 24 th	▪ Plantation Management Examination
25 th	▪ Pali University Examination
26 th 27 th & 28 th	▪ Diploma in English Examinations DPA, PPH
29 th	▪ Pali University Examination
30 th & 31 st	▪ Pharmacy Management Exam Hall 1

EVENTS HELD IN JULY 2025

01st July

Empowering Minds for a Brighter Future

A Life Education Programme for Basic English and IT students was held at Don Peter Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, conducted by Rev. Fr. Ranga Shehan, Priest in Charge of the Faculty of Business and Hospitality Management and the Marketing Unit of ACHS.

03rd July

The Curriculum Development Committee meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. in the Boardroom, chaired by Prof. Udith Jayasinghe, Dr. Janaka Wickramasinghe, and Mr. Virajitha Kuruppu.

04th July

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Practices

The "Crop Life" programme on the sustainable use of crop protection products was conducted for students enrolled in the Higher National and National Diploma in Agricultural Production Technology (NVQ Levels 5 & 6), as well as the Diploma in Plantation Management (NVQ Level 5), 2025. This informative session was organized by Crop Life Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Past Pupils' Association of the School of Agriculture, Aquinas College of Higher Studies.



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09th July

Workshop on Quality Assurance in Programme Review

A special workshop on the Quality Assurance of the Programme Review Process was conducted by Prof. Renuka Silva, Professor of Nutrition at the Department of Applied Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. The session took place at 9:30 a.m. in the Diamond Jubilee Building and was attended by priests in charge, department heads, and directors.

Advancing Sustainable Coconut Cultivation

The Coconut Development Programme on Sustainable Cultivation Management of Coconut was conducted for all students pursuing the Higher National and National Diploma in Agricultural Production Technology (NVQ Levels 5 & 6) at the School of Agriculture. Held at the Aquinas Farm in Ragama, the programme was organized by the Coconut Cultivation Board, Gampaha. The Bursar, the Officer in Charge of the Farm, a team from the School of Agriculture, and members of the Past Pupils' Association (PPA) also took part in the event.

11th July

A Thanksgiving Holy Mass was held at 12:10 p.m. in the College Chapel to celebrate the birthday of Rev. Fr. Nadeesha, the Priest in Charge of the Faculty of Education and English. The celebration was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony in the priests' parlour.

12th July

Welcoming the 2025 B.A. Degree Intake

An orientation programme for the 2025 B.A. degree intake was held at 9:00 a.m. in Cardinal Cooray Hall. A total of 36 students were present for the session.

19th July

Exploring the Value of a B.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Humanities conducted the second session of the workshop on "The Value of a B.A. Degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences" at the English Media Room, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Celebrating Achievement: Certificate Awarding Ceremony for English and IT Programmes

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the Professional English and IT programme, along with the Certificate in ICT Technician course, was held at 2:00 p.m. in Cardinal Cooray Hall. A total of 80 students received their certificates from Rev. Fr. Prasanka Rodrigo, Priest in Charge of the Faculty, and Dr. Chamli, Consultant Dean of the Faculty.

22nd July

The Orientation Programme for the B.Sc. in Agriculture 2025 batch was held at Cardinal Cooray Hall at 9.30 a.m.

26th July

Welcoming Future Healthcare Professionals – Nursing and Pharmacy Orientation 2025

The Orientation Programme of the Department of Nursing and Pharmacy for the 2025 intake was held at 9:00 a.m. in Cardinal Cooray Hall. A total of 43 new students enrolled for the 2025 batch.

A Thanksgiving Holy Mass was held at 12:10 p.m. in the College Chapel to celebrate the birthdays of Rev. Fr. Ranga Shehan and Rev. Fr. Manoranjan de Silva, the Priests in Charge of the Faculty of Business and Hospital Management and Faculty of Agriculture and the School of Agriculture, respectively.



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27th July

Inaugurating a New Chapter: Launch of the Psychology Graduate Association

The official launch of the Psychology Graduate Association of Aquinas College was held at Cardinal Cooray Hall, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the academic community.

31st July

Bridging Academia and Industry: Expert Session on the Livestock Sector

The Faculty of Agriculture hosted a special session on the livestock sector in collaboration with Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd., providing students with valuable industry insights. The session featured Dr. S. Mallawaarachchi, Senior Director at Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd., as the guest speaker.

The Priests' Chapel



This is the Priests' Chapel, located on the first floor of the College Church building, centered around the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance displayed on the altar for adoration.

The altar, covered with a white cloth, features a golden, radiant monstrance at its center, flanked by red decorative panels that draw the eye toward the Eucharist. On the left stands a statue of **St. Joseph** holding the Child Jesus, and on the right, a statue of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** also holding the Child Jesus. A lamp burns, symbolizing the presence of Christ.



Behind the altar, a stained-glass image of Jesus with outstretched arms serves as a backdrop. Above it, a vivid mural by **Mr. Dinesh Buddhika** depicts the **Holy Trinity**: **God the Father** at the top center, the **Holy Spirit** as a dove below Him, and **Jesus crucified** in the middle. Angels surround the scene, with **Moses** holding the Ten Commandments on one side and **St. Peter** holding the key given to him by Jesus on the other.



All the sacred articles in this chapel are generous donations from the parish and people of **Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Staten Island, New York**.

The space is intimate, reverent, and designed to invite quiet prayer and adoration. The red carpet adds warmth, while the lighting focuses attention on the Eucharist as the heart of the chapel. This sacred space was **recently refurbished**.



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PHOTO ALBUM JULY 2025

"Crop Life Programme Empowers Aquinas Agriculture Students with Sustainable Farming Practices"



"Aquinas Weweldeniya Empowers English Teachers with Inspiring Professional Development Session"



"Coconut Development Programme Trains Aquinas Agriculture Students in Sustainable Cultivation"



Orientation Programme for the Bachelor of Arts – 2025 intake



"The second session of the Workshop Series on Sinhala Teaching"



"Celebrating Achievement: Certificate Awarding Ceremony for English and IT Programmes"



"Nursing & Pharmacy Department Welcomes July 2025 Intake with Inspiring Orientation Program"



"Aquinas Agriculture Students Gain Industry Insights from Hayleys Agriculture Livestock Expert"





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Dates for the placement Exams
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