



Since 1954

# Aquinas Bulletin

**71**  
 YEARS  
 of Excellence  
 1954 - 2025

## June 2025



✉ info@aquinas.lk

🌐 www.aquinas.lk

☎ 0117 389 115-22



## Photo of the month



"This special Baccalaureate blessing and the ceremonial cutting of the cake honoured the sacrifices, dedication, and accomplishments of our graduates as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their journey. In this moment of celebration, we stand united as one family—no differences, only shared pride and hope for the future."

### Pope's Monthly Intention for June 2025

## THAT THE WORLD MIGHT GROW IN COMPASSION

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



## Rector's Message



Dear Members of the Aquinas Family,  
 As we enter the month of **June**, I invite each of you to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning this time holds for us - **as individuals, as a community, and as a Catholic institution committed to formation through education.**

In the Church's liturgical calendar, **June** is dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** - a profound symbol of Christ's love, mercy, and compassion. This devotion is not merely a ritual but a **call to live with greater humility, gentleness, and generosity.** May the Sacred Heart inspire us to deepen our personal commitment to our mission and to one another.

In Sri Lanka, June is also marked by **Poson Poya**, commemorating the arrival of Buddhism to our land. It is a reminder of the power of spiritual awakening and the enduring value of **interreligious harmony**, which we proudly uphold at Aquinas.

Academically, June marks a **critical halfway point** in the year. It is a time for review, realignment, and renewed focus. I encourage all our faculty, staff, and students to use this time to reflect honestly on your progress, identify areas for growth, and commit to finishing the year with purpose and perseverance.

Environmentally, as the **monsoon season** begins and we observe **World Environment Day**, let us not forget our responsibility as stewards of God's creation. I urge our students and staff to promote sustainability in every way possible—through education, action, and example.

May this month be one of **renewal, wisdom, and grace.**  
 With blessings and best wishes.



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## AQUINAS A VISION AND ITS FULFILMENT

M. I. Kuruvilla

When the varied and great achievements of Fr. Peter Pillai come to be evaluated, his undaunted championing of the cause of university education and his founding of Aquinas University College will be considered two of his most enduring contributions to his country and its people.

From the very commencement of his passionate commitment to educational tasks, Fr. Peter Pillai realised that, although Ceylon possessed a fairly sound secondary school educational system with ample provision for expansion, higher university education lagged far behind. To this vital need he drew pointed attention, while serving in various capacities on different educational bodies. And while carrying on this campaign for the expansion of university education, he himself against almost insuperable difficulties provided an institution which could to some extent satisfy the demand for higher education in this country. The fact that the lead he gave was followed by the founding of other institutions of higher learning is in itself a tribute to his remarkable foresight, his wonderful vision.

Fr. Peter Pillai believed not only in the possibilities of higher university education in this country; he believed, in fact, in the absolute necessity for the expansion of knowledge, of "widespread knowledge", to use his own words; and this belief was held against the fears of other educationists that such an expansion of higher education would create difficult social problems like the lack of employment prospects for those who seek university education. But Fr. Peter Pillai was convinced that it was a crime to deny higher education to those who can benefit from it, whether we have employment to offer them at the conclusion of university education or not. He believed, in fact, that the development and the progress of the country depended to a great extent on such an expansion of educational opportunities. He not only openly expressed his view that the Ceylon University was shutting out large numbers who were undoubtedly fit for higher education but, in a practical manner, characteristic of his genius, he, by the founding of Aquinas exploded the "myth" that one university can meet the full demand for higher education in this country. In fact, the founding of the two other universities proved the correctness of the stand he took long ago that University education in this country needed rapid expansion. In other words, his service to the cause of university education, besides his founding of Aquinas, is in itself a great one.

### Unique Vision

And then there is Aquinas, a concrete manifestation of his belief in university education and a living testimony to his remarkable vision. And that vision was a unique one. He has often been referred to as a dreamer, a visionary, an idealist. But the remarkable thing about his vision was that it was a practical one. His vision rose from the context of actual, real life and he transformed his vision into things material and actual, preserving the idealistic content in them. The saying of William Blake "Eternity is in love with the productions of Time" becomes quite apposite in his case. His "eternity" — his vision — too was in love with the productions of time — buildings, libraries and above all human beings, particularly young students whom he looked after in the institution he built up.



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The way Fr. Peter Pillai built up Aquinas to its present position against almost insurmountable odds, against crushing financial burdens is a proof of that practical genius of his, his practical vision. As against the canards of fabulous funds flowing in from foreign countries, the fact is that funds were found for the new buildings here - here itself.

However, his main concern was not with outward things, with the "machinery" for its own sake. He was really concerned with the things of the mind and spirit and in all he did, in all he built he preserved the ideal, the idealistic content ... knowledge, wisdom, spirituality — the ideals for which Aquinas has been built. These ideals of his are so well known that one need not go over them here. One may only add that he insisted on this synthesis, this integration of all knowledge not for any abstract ideal of synthesis or integration, but for the sake of the individual, for the development of the complete man, for the expansion of all powers and faculties in the individual. One may also add that, besides wanting to perpetuate the best knowledge, the best ideas of all time, he laboured equally hard to humanise it, to make knowledge less exclusive, less high-brow and technical.

## Moral training

In pursuing the ideal of the whole man, Fr. Peter Pillai laid the greatest emphasis on the moral training of the students; and that deliberate, conscious insistence on the inculcation of moral values and the primary importance attached to it are the things on which he would have liked Aquinas to be judged. And the parents who have entrusted their children to Aquinas will bear witness to the fact that they appreciated the primacy of the goal of a moral life for their children and found scope for its realisation too, at Aquinas.

Moral training was for all alike regardless of race or religion. So were humane values — charity, kindness, courtesy, chivalry — things on which he laid very great emphasis. He would laugh at your foibles or eccentricities genially, good humouredly, he would criticise you vehemently for your views or opinions. But he would never, never say anything to hurt you personally. He never confused wit with cheap cynicism or seriousness with the capacity to vilify and abuse. That is another of the ideals he wanted practised at Aquinas — decency in personal relationships. He used to speak at the meetings of the General Assembly wistfully, at times almost mournfully, of the disappearance of these traditional virtues of courtesy and decency; for he himself was a traditionalist, though with a forward, modern outlook.

## Won co-operation

In the pursuit of the ideals of Aquinas he received the whole hearted co-operation of the Staff, and the way in which he won that co-operation is itself a proof of his remarkable character. He had that co-operation given to him voluntarily — without any compulsion. For to be associated with Fr. Peter Pillai was to gain confidence and purposefulness in one's own life, to make one feel equal to every demand. In him courage went hand in hand with intelligence. But his courage and intelligence themselves were rooted in a profound sensibility, an awareness of the life around him, an awareness of the hardships of the needy, the oppressed and the under-privileged. So he entered life in a spirit of profound moral commitment, performing those great acts of charity and service of which Aquinas is a lasting, living monument. The task is indeed a great one for us to live up to his ideals and to make Aquinas grow to great strength. But one feels that that task is made easier by the fact that Fr. Rector will always be a living presence at Aquinas. His aspirations and his ideals can never be forgotten.

[Courtesy Friends of Aquinas Bulletin. December 1964.]



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June	Saints of June 2025
June 1	- The Ascension of the Lord St. Justin (Martyr), Memorial <b>World Communications Day</b>
June 2	- SS Peter & Marcellinus (Martyrs), Optional Memorial
June 3	- SS Charles Lwanga & Companions (Martyrs), Memorial
June 4	- St. Francis Caracciolo (Priest)
June 5	- St. Boniface (Bishop & Martyr), Memorial
June 6	- St. Norbert of Xanten (Bishop & Founder), Optional Memorial
June 7	- <b>Id-Ul-Alha (Hadji Festival Day)</b> St. Robert of Newminster (Priest)
June 8	- Pentecost Sunday St. Mariam Thresia Chiramel Mankidiyan (Mystic & Foundress)
June 9	- Mary, Mother of the Church, Memorial St. Ephrem of Syria
June 10	- St. Getulius & Companions (Protomartyrs of Sabina)
June 11	- St. Barnabas (Apostle), Memorial
June 12	- Our Lord Jesus Christ - The Eternal High Priest, Feast St. John of Sahagün (Priest), St. Gaspard Berton
June 13	- St. Anthony of Padua (Priest & Doctor), Memorial St. Aquilina
June 14	- St. Joseph The Hymnographer (Monk) St. Methodius I of Constantinople
June 15	- The Most Holy Trinity Sunday St. Germaine Cousin (Virgin)
June 16	- St. John Francis Regis (Priest) St. Benno of Meissen
June 17	- St. Emily De Vialar (Virgin & Founder)
June 18	- SS Marcus & Marcellian (Martyrs) St. Elizabeth of Schonau
June 19	- St. Juliana Falconieri (Virgin & Foundress) St. Romuald (Abbot), Memorial
June 20	- St. Silverius (Pope & Martyr)
June 21	- St. Aloysius Gonzaga (Religious), Memorial
June 22	- <b>The Most Holy Body &amp; Blood of Christ   Corpus Christi</b> St. Paulinus of Nola, St. John Fisher, St. Thomas More
June 23	- St. Joseph Cafasso (Priest) <b>ACHS Re-opens after Semester Break</b>
June 24	- The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Solemnity St. Maria Guadalupe García Zavala
June 25	- St. William of Montevergine (Abbot & Founder)
June 26	- St. Josemaría Escrivá (Priest)
June 27	- The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity St. Cyril of Alexandria (Bishop & Doctor), Memorial <b>World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests</b>
June 28	- The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial St. Irenaeus (Bishop & Martyr), Memorial
June 29	- Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time <b>Pope's Day - Theme: "Reconciliation! Key to Holiness"</b> SS Peter & Paul (Apostles), Solemnity
June 30	- First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, Optional Memorial St. Donatus of Münsteriefel (Martyr)





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June	EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15th General Convocation at Archbishop's House Auditorium</li> <li>• Award Ceremony I – Awarding other diplomas from 11.00 to 1.00 p.m</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award Ceremony II – Department of English Diploma Awarding</li> </ul>
14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diploma in English Entrance exams</li> </ul>
15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special workshop for BA Final students from 9.00 am to 3.00 p.m. at IT Lab 4 – Organized by the Department of Humanities</li> </ul>
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermediate level exam – DIE</li> </ul>

## EVENTS IN MAY 2025

### 3<sup>rd</sup> May

#### **SURYA UDANAYA 2025 (SINHALA & TAMIL NEW YEAR FESTIVAL)**

The Aquinas Kalutara Branch celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year with a day-long event on the college premises. Staff and students of the branch participated in a vibrant display of cultural traditions and unity.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> May

The Orientation programme of the department of Business and Hospitality Management was held at 9.30 a.m. in the Cardinal Cooray Hall, Sri Jayawardenapura.

### 15<sup>th</sup> May

#### **OPENING OF THE WEWELDENIYA BRANCH SCHOOL**

The grand opening of the Aquinas Weweldeniya branch school was ceremonially held, officiated by Very Rev. Dr. Sylvester Ranasinghe, Rector and Vice Chancellor of Aquinas College, Borella. The event was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Nadeesha, the Priest-in-Charge; Ms. Chathurya Weerakkody of the Faculty of Education and English; and Rev. Fr. Chaminda Perera, the Bursar of the College.

### 24<sup>th</sup> May

#### **BACCALAUREATES BLESSING**

A heartfelt Thanksgiving prayer service was held in the college chapel. This special Baccalaureate blessing honoured the sacrifices, dedication and accomplishments of our soon-to-be graduates, as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their journey.

#### **WORKSHOP SERIES ON SINHALA TEACHING**

The 1st session of the workshop series on Sinhala Teaching, organised by the Department of Education and Teaching Training, was successfully held at Cardinal Cooray Hall. The workshop featured insight sessions conducted by distinguished resource persons, Snr. Professor Sanfagomi Coperahewam Prof. Sarath Wijesooriya, and Ms. Prageethika Jayasekara, who shared their experience with participation education



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27th May

## MEDICAL CAMP

A medical camp organised by the Department of Nursing and pharmacy management was held from 8.30 am to 1.00 p.m. in the priests' parlour, for the staff. Medical consultations with qualified medical officers, vision check-ups, and spectacles for sale.



## Aquinas College Higher Studies Library – Empowering Knowledge and Learning

**Our Vision** - Become a leader in the field of Library and Information Science by developing and providing targeted, current, and relevant information for higher education, spiritual revival and further research”.

**About the Library** - The ACHS Library is an Academic Library dedicated to supporting the higher educational and research needs of students, Academic staff, Faculty Members, and scholars.

**Special Collections** - A key highlight of the Library is its Special Collections, which include rare and valuable resources such as:

- One of the notable features of the ACHS Library is its special collection dedicated to Theology, which includes a range of rare and scholarly resources aimed at supporting both academic research and spiritual development
- The ACHS Library is proud to feature a rare books collection that includes valuable resources on Sri Lankan History, particularly from the ancient period.



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**The ACHS Library** is structured into two main sections to effectively meet diverse user needs:

1. Lending Library - Books may be borrowed exclusively by registered members.
2. Reference Library- Academic staff, faculty members, and students are granted free access to all library services and resources to support their academic and research endeavors

**Library Services** - The ACHS Library is committed to providing exceptional, free-of-charge services to academic and faculty members, students, and staff members. These services include:

- Locating and borrowing books
- Membership registration
- Access to past examination papers
- Use of computers for academic purposes
- Reference to special collections including CDs, theses, and other scholarly materials
- Access to newspaper archives, daily newspapers, and Aquinas College publications

**Library Resources** - With a collection exceeding 50,000 resources, the library offers a wide array of materials, including books, theses, and past exam papers. The majority of the resources are available in English, with significant holdings in Sinhala and a smaller yet valuable selection in Tamil.

### Subject Areas Covered

■ Accountancy	- 150	■ Information Technology/ICT	- 1180
■ Agriculture	- 1240	■ Management & Marketing	- 950
■ Business Management	- 180	■ Nursing & Pharmacy	- 340
■ Catholic Religion	- 6550	■ Psychology & Counselling	- 860
■ English & Sinhala -Fiction/Novels/ Grammar	- 8260	■ Sociology	- 430
■ History (Asia, Sri Lanka, World)	- 11540	■ Theology	- 12150
■ Hospitality Management	- 135	■ Other Subjects	- 5950

We play a vital role in ensuring the continued growth and excellence of our library services, while supporting the academic and higher education needs of our college.





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## PHOTO ALBUM MAY 2025

**Sinhala Aluth Aurudu Ulela 2025**



**The Orientation programme of the department of Business and Hospitality Management**



**Opening of the Weweldeniya Branch School**



**Baccalaureates Blessing**



**Workshop series on Sinhala Teaching**



**Medical Camp**





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**July 2025 Intake**

**DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

Commencement Date  
12th July 2025 - Weekend Intake  
15th July 2025 - Evening Intake

Dates for the placement Exams  
31<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

Mode of delivery:  
Physical or online  
(to be selected by the candidate)

Diploma in English Language & Literature Conditions apply

B.Ed (Hons) in English

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