

**Platinum Jubilee Inaugural Address by the Principal  
Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Tirupattur  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Dear Fr. Provincial, members of the Salesian community, esteemed past Principals, retired Professors, Heads of Departments, faculty members, Non – Teaching Staff, Religious, cherished friends, benefactors, alumni, and beloved students :**

Just a few weeks ago, **forty alumni from the 1974–75 batch, accompanied by their spouses, returned to their alma mater.** It was more than a visit—it was a homecoming rich with memory and meaning. Each one carried a story etched in gratitude. They spoke of their humble beginnings in remote villages, of parents who, though unlettered, dreamed of education for their children. They recalled the language barriers they faced, and above all, the affectionate care of the Salesians and their teachers, who nurtured not just their intellect, but their spirit.

Today, those same students are retired government officials, bureaucrats, and managing directors of companies. **And yet, despite their diverse journeys, they all echoed one profound truth:**

**“Sacred Heart didn’t just teach us—it believed in us before we believed in ourselves.”**

These stories are not isolated. **They are the heartbeat of Sacred Heart College.** They are echoed in the lives of thousands who have walked through these gates over the past 75 years. **And today, as we inaugurate the Platinum Jubilee, we celebrate not just the milestones, but the miracles—of transformation, resilience, and grace.**

As Scripture reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11:

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Sacred Heart College has been, and continues to be, a place where such plans unfold—quietly, faithfully, and powerfully.

**It gives me immense joy and gratitude to stand before you today on this historic occasion—the inauguration of the Platinum**

**Jubilee of Sacred Heart College.** This is not merely a celebration of years gone by, but a sacred moment to honor the legacy, the labour, and the love that have shaped this institution over the past 75 years.

Having spent the entirety of my priestly life within these hallowed grounds, I am deeply thankful to God and to my provincials for entrusting me with the privilege to serve in various capacities. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the past Rectors, Principals, Professors, Students, and the Salesian community who have built this college brick by brick, prayer by prayer, and vision by vision.

As I reflect on this journey, I am reminded of the words from Psalm 90:17:

**“May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.”**

Indeed, the Lord has blessed the work of our hands.

Over the last 25 years, Sacred Heart College has grown both vertically and horizontally. From a modest strength of 1,000 students in the year 2000, **we now proudly serve 4,800 students across 45 departments, 6 diploma courses, and with the support of 215 dedicated faculty members.** Our classrooms are equipped with smart boards and LCD projectors, and our commitment to research and publication has seen a remarkable rise. **The college administration is now fully managed through an ERP system developed in-house—a testament to our innovation and self-reliance.**

Our student support systems—ranging from scholarships to the midday meal and breakfast schemes—continue to reflect our mission of inclusivity and compassion.

As Proverbs 19:17 reminds us:

**“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.”**

**The Platinum Jubilee is not just a celebration—it is a renewal of our academic and cultural vision.** Years of planning have gone into this milestone. Under the guidance of Fr. John Alex, then Rector, each department has committed to hosting two academic programmes, and I am proud to say they are fulfilling this with dedication.

At the college level, **we are preparing for the All India Science and Technology AI Fest on 13th September 2025, which will bring**

**together 15,000 students, 20+ CEOs, scientists, bureaucrats, and ministers.** This event will be spearheaded by **Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, fondly known as the Moon Man of India.** We are deeply grateful to **Mr. Perumal, founder of the Annamalai Foundation USA, for funding this visionary initiative.**

**In December 2025, from the 25th to 28th, our campus will host the All India Kabaddi Tournament, for both men and women a grand sports festival.** Our sincere thanks to the sports wing of **Dravida Kazhagam, led by Mr. K.C. Ezhilarasan, our friend and benefactor for their generous support.**

**On 16th February 2026, we will be blessed with the presence of Most Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, the 13th successor of Don Bosco, who will join us in celebrating this Jubilee.** His visit will be a spiritual anchor for our celebrations, reminding us of Don Bosco's enduring legacy:

**"Education is a matter of the heart."**

**To honor our history, we will release a commemorative volume titled "Echoes of Heart: 75 Years of Grace and Growth" during the Rector Major's visit.** Additionally, **a scientific study is underway to assess the impact of Sacred Heart College on the northern region of Tamil Nadu**—a reflection of our commitment to evidence-based growth and outreach.

We are also reaching out to our alumni, donors, and foundations to support the **Platinum Jubilee Memorial, a corpus fund for scholarships and research.** I appeal to every alumnus: **Sacred Heart gave you a future**—now it is your turn to secure its future.

As 2 Corinthians 9:7 reminds us:

**"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver."**

**The Jubilee will culminate in a grand Alumni Reunion in 2026, a moment to reconnect, rejoice, and recommit to the mission of Sacred Heart.**

I take this opportunity to thank our Rector and the Salesian community for their unwavering support. My gratitude extends to all Heads of Departments, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, and well-wishers who continue to uphold the spirit of this institution.

**Let us march forward together—pooling our energy, resources, and prayers—to elevate Sacred Heart College to even greater heights on the national map of higher education.**

As we begin this Jubilee, may we echo the words of Isaiah 54:2

**“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.”**

Let this Jubilee be a time of expansion, transformation, and grace.

**Thank you, and may God bless Sacred Heart College abundantly.**