

EDUCATE
EMPOWER
TRANSFORM



Connections

Monthly Newsletter of
Loyola Campus, Sri Lanka

inside this issue

- ❑ Country Director's Message
- ❑ the Logo
- ❑ A Historical Note
- ❑ Capacity Building
- ❑ the Centres
 - ❑ Mannar
 - ❑ Vavuniya
 - ❑ Hatton
 - ❑ Puthukkudiyiruppu
 - ❑ Trincomalee
- ❑ Learning together

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Country Office,
Thalaimannar Road,
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Message from the Country Director

*Connections is an "Alternative View of Change"
that challenges the conventional*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of *Connections*, our monthly newsletter from Loyola Campus with its 'motto' to Educate, Empower and Transform. It is indeed a great honour and it is an immense pleasure to launch this first edition. I hope this newsletter offers you the opportunity to stay in touch with the Loyola Campus through the latest news and research, professional development, mentoring, networking and special alumni events.

Connections is an "Alternative View of Change" that challenges the conventional linear, teleological view of historical progress and education. One cannot consider the development of any particular part of the modern world in isolation. Rather, the



Milroy R. Fernando sj is a Sri Lankan Jesuit. In addition to his academic work, he served in a variety of Jesuit works including the formation of young Jesuits. He is currently the Province Delegate for formation of the Sri Lanka Province and the Country Director for Loyola Campus and JWL representative of Sri Lanka.

entire gestalt of the modern world is the result of a web of interconnected events, each one consisting of a person or group acting for reasons of their own motivations (e.g., profit, curiosity, religion)

Continued on page 2

with no concept of the final, modern result to which the actions of either them or their contemporaries would lead. The interplay of the results of these isolated events is what drives history and innovation, education and learning to Transform the world and is also the main focus of the newsletter. It is this idea that *Connections* tries to promote and communicate, that the entire modern world is built from these interconnected innovations, all increasingly maintained and improved giving a chance for every average citizen in making an informed decision on practical issues to make change or to become transformed individuals to transform the world.

This spirit of Loyola Campus is based on the core of Ignatian spirituality, as well as the source of Jesuit pedagogy, which consists of the Discernment of Spirits. Different aspects of the Ignatian spirituality of discernment can be summarized in four pillars: i. *Cura Personalis*, ii. *On Multa Sed Multum*, iii. Freedom and Responsibility and iv. MAGIS. For Ignatius, the aim of Jesuit education is to transform lives at the Margins. Rather than staying in the safe box of Paris, Ignatius sent his companions all over the world. Ignatius knew very clearly that we go to the margins, outside of our boxes, not so much, so that the people we encounter will know God in us, rather that we can

find God through them. It is this vision that Loyola Campus: Higher Education at the Margins embodies.

A huge thank you to all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring articles without which there wouldn't have been this issue newsletter. Last but not the least, I would like to thank especially the ever dynamic and vibrant Thiranjala Weerasinghe and Noel Jayanathan for their hard work throughout the creation of this edition.

I hope you enjoy this first edition.

and I wish you all,
A Happy Feast of St. Ignatius



the Logo



Blue: Blue is the color of the sky and sea. It is associated with depth and stability. It symbolizes loyalty, wisdom, and truth. As a community of learners this colour represents the yearning for such qualities that makes the process of learning more meaningful.

Green: It symbolizes growth, harmony, freshness, and fertility. Green has strong emotional correspondence with safety. Green has great healing power. Learning and education is at one hand promotes personal growth and also in the other encourages fostering of relationships and bridging across different cultures.

Yellow: Yellow, the color of sunshine, hope, and happiness. Yellow stands for freshness, energy, and joy. Yellow symbolizes the transformation that any learning process makes in our lives.

Brown: Brown is a composite color, made by combining red, yellow and black. The harmonious union of colours that has produced this unique colour symbolizes the global character of our education that transcends boundaries and horizons that limits the human spirit.

Meaning : Loyola Campus is a shared community of learners who journey together in companionship with one another, nature and the Divine. Wherever this community is present Loyola Campus too operates not limiting itself to a mere institution and the boundaries of four walls. The community is the embodiment of the qualities and values represented by each colour and becomes a counter-cultural sign in promoting peace, harmony, reconciliation and justice.

A Historical Note

In 2015, within a year of the Apostolic Discernment of 2014, the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka commenced the learning Centres in Mannar and Vavuniya in collaboration with JRS - South Asia and JWL.

Loyola Campus an initiative of the Jesuits under Wannai Mission was formed in 2017 offering tertiary and higher education opportunities at the margin.

Loyola Campus motivated by the motto 'Educate. Empower. Transform' hopes to create new learning environments and spaces where Jesuits hope to form a generation of young men and women who burn with the zeal for a new humanity. This community that Loyola Campus serves is the embodiment of the qualities and values exemplified in an Ignatian journey and it becomes a counter-cultural sign in promoting peace, harmony, reconciliation and justice.

It was first, in 2014, during the Apostolic Discernment that the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka took a bold step in recognizing the need to serve the war affected youth and vulnerable students in the North and Eastern parts of the country. It was a Jesuit response to

the post-war scenario of the island. Although Jesuits have been involved in the North and East, the Province recognized the need to especially offer tertiary and higher education opportunities in these parts of the island. This intervention in 2014, directed the Province to work in collaboration with the Jesuit Refugee Service-South Asia and Jesuit Commons: Higher Education in the Margins (JC-HEM) which is now known as Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). Thanks to the generous contributions of JRS-South Asia, Centres in Mannar and Vavuniya were established in February 2015 and September 2015 respectively. In December 2016, with the end of most of JRS operations in Sri Lanka, these two-tertiary education Centres came under the direct purview of the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka.

Loyola Campus has signed a MoU with JWL in order to collaborate and work together in providing best education opportunities to those in the margins. While Loyola Campus is an independent entity of the Jesuits of Sri Lanka, it has recognized JWL as a preferred partner in providing a number of certificate courses and a diploma programme.

The Way Forward

The goal of Loyola Campus is to build a just, equal and reconciled Sri Lanka through tertiary and higher education. In turn, the students will become agents of empowerment and visible signs of hope in their own communities.

With the accreditation of all the learning Centres at the Tertiary Vocation Education Commission (TVEC), Loyola Campus, in future hopes to offer a number of NVQ level courses as well. Loyola Campus operates 5 tertiary education Centres: Loyola Campus-Mannar, Loyola Campus-Vavuniya, Loyola Campus-Mullaitivu, Loyola Campus-Hatton, and Loyola Campus-Trincomalee.

Two more Centres, one in Sampur and the other in Monaragala district are planned by January 2018. Loyola Campus Country Office which is currently located in Mannar will provide the coordination and guidance for the Centres to flourish.



Directors of Loyola Campus meet

An orientation cum training programme for the Directors of Loyola Campus was held on 18 July 2017 at Loyola Campus-Vavuniya. The Directors from Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Hatton and Puthukkuduyiruppu were present. Rev Fr Dexter Gray sj., the Provincial and Rev Fr George Fernando sj., the Treasurer of Sri

Lanka Jesuit Province were both present. They addressed the Directors and explained the Province's expectation and the vision for tertiary and higher education in the newly established Centres.

The main purpose of the programme was to introduce Loyola Campus- Sri Lanka operations to all the Directors of the Centres and provide an overall strategy for the administration of Loyola Campus in Sri Lanka. Roy Fernando sj., the Country Director of Loyola Campus - Sri Lanka briefed the Directors on the Book '*Internal Norms, Guidelines and Strategic Framework 2017-2020*' (INGSF 2017-2020) published by Loyola Campus- Sri

Lanka in July 2017. The first copy of INGSF 2017-2020 was presented to the Provincial of Sri Lanka Jesuit Province. Also, all the Directors of the Centres were presented with an Administrative Toolkit that contains all the essential tools for the administration of Loyola Campus. Thiranjala Weerasinghe, the Manager for Financial and Academic Operations, Loyola Campus- Sri Lanka provided an outline of the main administrative functions of the Directors.

The Directors of the Centres briefed on the current status of the Centres and the process of preparation for the new batch of students starting from September 2017. .

Capacity Building

Facilitator training programme for the Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) Global English Programme was held from 24-26 July 2017 at Jesuit Provincial Curia, Sri Lanka. The training programme was organized by Jesuit Worldwide Learning in collaboration with Loyola Campus-Sri Lanka. Mr Adrian Doff, the author of English Unlimited (Cambridge Press) was the resource person for the training programme. Dr. M. Selvanayagam, the Director for Academic Operations, Asia represented the Global JWL team. Thirty-six participants from three different Centres in India (Madurai, Chennai and Bombay) and five Centres from Sri Lanka (Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Hatton and Puthukkuduyiruppu) where JWL Global English Programme would be implemented participated in the training programme.

The Facilitators of the JWL Global English Programme were introduced to the RICCI box and all the facilities provided for the students through the technological assistance at a number of levels. RICCI box is a tool kit developed and assembled by JWL for the Global English Programme. It contains a Microsoft Tablet, 20 MP3 players with headphones, a portable and battery operated projector, English Unlimited text books with Teacher Guide and the Workbooks and other necessary electrical accessories. The Tool Kit assists the students in mastering the English Language programme provided by JWL. Mr Adrian Doff presented a number of methodologies and



Facilitator Training - JWL Global English Programme

strategies in implementing the new text book 'English Unlimited'.

This training provided the participants with a clear idea of the operation and implementation of the JWL Global English Programme in the months to come.

Mannar



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Loyola Campus first became operational in February 2015 in Mannar. It was a project initiated by Jesuit Refugee Service - South Asia in partnership with Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC:HEM) and the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka. The Centre was established in response to the need of a larger number of people especially the youth in the northern section of the island. Sri Lanka's Northern Province has been deeply affected by the civil war, its population is still recovering from the terrible conflict. In particular, the war had a debilitating effect on people's access to quality educational facilities. At the moment the Centre is developing a programme where learning is taken beyond its four walls of the Centre into villages and schools in Mannar where many students require assistance and help.



Sept - Dec 2015 Batch of EFL students



Ninoschka Pinto, a volunteer from India, assisting the students

Language (EFL), a certificate course in Computer Applications: Graphic Design for Desktop Publishing and Microsoft Office. In the future, NVQ level courses are also in the plan .

“The Centre hopes in future to offer NVQ level courses that will bring better opportunities for the students.”

The existing building was redesigned to provide two classrooms, each equipped with 20 computers. Three certificate courses are offered at Loyola Campus, Mannar : certificate courses in English as a Foreign

JRS - South Asia handed over the operation of the Centre to the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka in December 2016. Since then, the Centre has become part of the Loyola Campus network operating in Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Hatton and Puthukkudiyiruppu from the 1st of July 2017.

DIRECTOR

I am Thiranjala Weerasinghe. I am from Sri Lanka and I have been involved with the operations of Loyola Campus, Mannar and Vavuniya from 2015. It is indeed a joy to see the growth and development of Loyola Campus and the number of people that the institute has served. It is a privilege to be a part of the Loyola Campus team.



Vavuniya



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Front view of Loyola Campus - Vavuniya

Loyola Campus has also begun a training programme in which selected students, having completed the said courses, are taught the skills and given the on-site practical experience to become future facilitators



Lucia Turner (UK), teaching EFL

A Learning Centre was launched in Vavuniya on 14 September 2015. Thanks to the contributions made by Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) and Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC:HEM) now know as Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), and the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka, Loyola Campus has been able to provide higher education to those in need. Keeping with the broader spirit of the Jesuit community, Loyola Campus

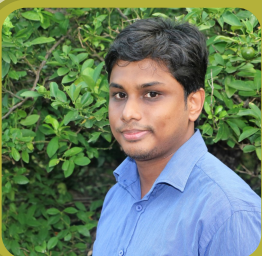
hopes to instigate a ‘ripple effect’ whereby our students pass on their knowledge to the broader community.

Specific certificate courses are offered such as English as a Foreign Language (EFL), Computer Applications: Graphic Design for Desktop Publishing, Introduction to Photography,

Sinhala, Web Designing. In addition, English classes for children are conducted.

Loyola Campus aims to help students discover and improve different skillsets through a number of exercises. Activities such as speech practices, group work, presentations, reviews, peer discussion and community-based teaching projects improve the level of confidence in students while helping them approach education and learning as a joyful activity. While theoretical aspects receive important attention, Loyola Campus challenges its students to channel their knowledge by teaching others. After a sufficient amount of professional training and evaluation, these individuals are provided not only employment, but also an opportunity to serve the very community they live in.

DIRECTORS



I am **Chamika Nipun sj**, from Sri Lanka, belonging to the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka. I have completed my studies in Computer Applications and Philosophy. At present I’m appointed as the Director of Loyola Campus - Vavuniya. It is truly exciting to be part and parcel of the struggle of the youth in equipping themselves for tomorrow’s challenging world.



I am **Elias Maria sj**, from India and I belong to the Madurai Jesuit Province. For many years, I have engaged in social, educational and pastoral ministries. I have worked in higher education for around 20 years. I am associated with JRS Tamil Nadu since 1990 where I was involved in training NGO staff and volunteers who assisted the displaced and returnees. At this time I am placed in Sri Lanka and look forward to an exciting engagement with the Loyola Campus team.

Hatton



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DIRECTOR

I am Prem Kumar sj, from Tamil Nadu, India and I belong to the Jesuit Province of Madurai. For more than ten years I was part of Jesuit Refugee Service - South Asia and have had the privilege of working with people belonging to different ethnicities, religions and nationalities who were under the predicament of wars and displacement. Although Sri Lanka has been a very familiar destination for the past decade of my involvement with JRS, now I am missioned to the Central part of Sri Lanka, Hatton to be the Director of Loyola Campus- Hatton.



Loyola Campus- Hatton was first launched in July 2017. Loyola Campus uses part of the existing structure of Centre for Social Concern (CSC) Hatton. Centre for Social Concern is a Non-Government Development Organization (NGDO), run by the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka. It is located in the town of Hatton, the capital of Sri Lanka's tea plantation sector, Nuwara Eliya.

Education has been identified as one of the most fundamental elements of empowering the plantation community and making their voices heard. In a number of forums and

Loyola Campus ensures that the students who complete the courses are committed to serve their community.

discussions the need for Jesuits' involvement in education in the plantation sector was highlighted. Among many other subjects, assistance in English language was identified to be of great importance and demand. Loyola Campus, a Jesuit Tertiary Education institute that aims to empower and transform societies through education was missioned to Hatton for a venture in educating the

plantation community and bringing hope to their lives.

Loyola Campus - Hatton would give preference to those students with great potential to succeed; those who otherwise would not have financial means or opportunity to enhance their skill and knowledge; and those who could assume leadership roles in the society.



KALAM Programme in progress



JWL Visit to Hatton - March 2017

Puthukkudiyiruppu



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Graduated EFL Students - May 2017

Puthukkudiyiruppu is a small town in Mullaitivu District towards the northern part of Sri Lanka. Most of the people in Puthukkudiyiruppu are either farmers or fishermen. Currently, it marks one of the poorest regions in the country where there is a high record of malnutrition and other socio-economic problems. While thousands of people were killed during the war, there are so many others who are wounded physically, emotionally and psychologically.

Jesuit Refugee Service - South Asia (JRS) accompanied the people in their struggles and for many years offered services to the affected population in a number of different ways. It

was under the guidance of JRS - South Asia that a certificate course in English as a Foreign Language was first initiated in February 2016. From that time onwards, a couple of batches have completed their courses and received certificates. While at the beginning only the English course was offered, later on other courses such as Microsoft Office and Sinhala were introduced. This laid the foundation for the establishment of Loyola Campus - Puthukkudiyiruppu in July 2017. The students now will get the opportunity to be a part of Jesuit Worldwide Learning

DIRECTOR



I am Richard Pitchchai sj, from Sri Lanka and belong to the Sri Lanka Jesuit Province. In 2010, soon after the war ended, I was missioned to Adampan, a village in Manner District in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. The main aim was to accompany and assist those who had been affected by the war. After having worked for seven years as the Superior cum Director of the Mission, at present I have been appointed as the Director of Loyola Campus- Puthukkudiyiruppu.

(JWL) Global English Language Programme from July 2017. Moreover, there will be a number of other courses that aim to improve the skills of students as they enter the university and job market.

Puthukkudiyiruppu was one of the worst affected areas during the last phase of the civil war in 2009.



Front View of Loyola Campus - PTK

Trincomalee



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Interactive English Learning

Loyola Campus-Trincomalee was established in July 2017 using the existing structure of the Jesuit English Academy Trincomalee. Jesuit English Academy has been offering certificate courses in English and several other subjects for a number of years. The Government Technical College,

DIRECTOR



I am Aniston J Morais sj from Mannar, Sri Lanka. I am a Jesuit of the Sri Lankan Jesuit Province. Presently, I function as the Director of the Jesuit Pre-Novitiate, the first stage of formation for those candidates entering the Jesuit Order in Sri Lanka. From July 2017, I am appointed as the Director of Loyola Campus- Trincomalee. It is indeed a precious gift to be a guide and mentor for all the youth who will visit the Centre and help them to equip themselves, professionally.

established in 1995 in the existing Academy building, laid the foundation for what was known as the Jesuit Academy of Trincomalee and now Loyola Campus- Trincomalee. The Centre has become a part of the Jesuit Tertiary Education endeavor in Sri Lanka, Loyola Campus.

Loyola Campus- Trincomalee has already started offering preparatory courses in English and English classes for children. In September, the Centre will offer the Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) affiliated Global English Programme for the benefit of the students in and around Trincomalee.

There are a number of other courses such as Microsoft Office and Sinhala that will also commence from the month of September.

Students in and around Trincomalee require professional expertise in English, Computer and several other professional courses. Loyola Campus- Trincomalee hopes to be registered under the Tertiary Vocation Education Commission (TVEC) soon and thereafter run NVQ level courses providing better opportunities for them.

“ the multi-ethnic and multi-religious environment of the locality will provide fertile ground for Loyola Campus to work for peacebuilding and reconciliation through tertiary and higher education.”



Hands-on learning of Photography

Learning together to transform the world

Jesuit Worldwide Learning: Higher Education at the Margins (JWL) is a collaborative global partnership comprised of organizations, institutions, companies, and above all, people, to provide tertiary education to those who would otherwise not have access to higher learning opportunities. It draws on the rich and centuries long Jesuit tradition of higher education and through a blended on-site and on-line approach mobilizes the resources of Jesuit and other worldwide networks of

educational institutions. Work accomplished from many volunteers, local and virtual partnerships, a lean executive team and the commitment from the students over the past five years continues to move JWL forward in

create a more peaceful and humane world.

JWL's motto seeks to foster a community of global learners committed to "Learning Together to Transform the World". JWL's strategic pillars focus on four key concepts: global thinking, strategic partnerships, Ignatian experience and "best" for the "least" at moderate costs.



JESUIT WORLDWIDE LEARNING
HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE MARGINS

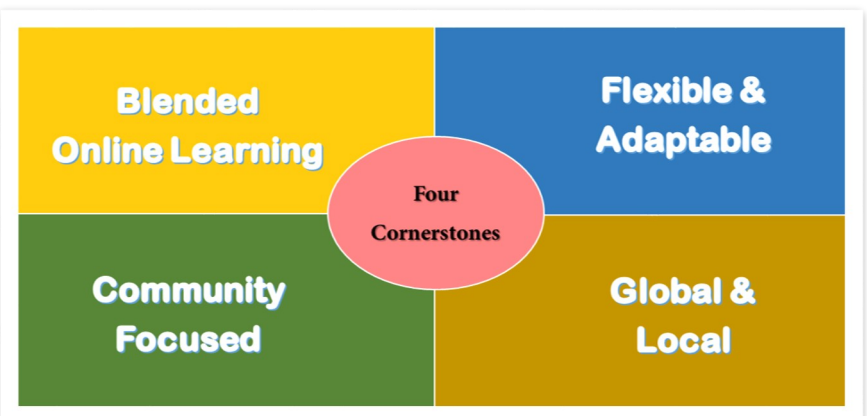
achieving its mission: "Learning Together to Transform the World".

To achieve the greatest impact for transformational change locally and regionally, JWL works in communities such as refugee camps, rural villages and towns. JWL takes also a regional approach having in one region or country several community learning sites. This way JWL students and graduates have a critical number to make a difference one day. The core regional areas are Middle East - Iraq, Afghanistan, West Africa, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

JWL provides equitable high quality tertiary learning to people and communities at the margins of societies - be it through poverty, location, lack of opportunity, conflict or forced displacement - so all can contribute their knowledge and voices to the global community of learners and together foster hope to

As a global partnership, JWL focuses on the countries with a low human development where most of the people live at the margins in their countries and our world. JWL is working closely with local partners to bring educational programs that meet their specific needs - enhancing the students' ability to positively impact their community by

- **Increasing their confidence**
- **Enriching their critical thinking skill set**
- **Increasing their ability to approach community conflicts and discord in a peaceful manner**
- **Improving their employment perspectives**
- **Equipping them better to start and run a business**





Trincomalee



Vavuniya

JWL's Global English Training Programme



Hatton



Mannar



Bombay



Chennai & Madurai



Puthukkudiyiruppu



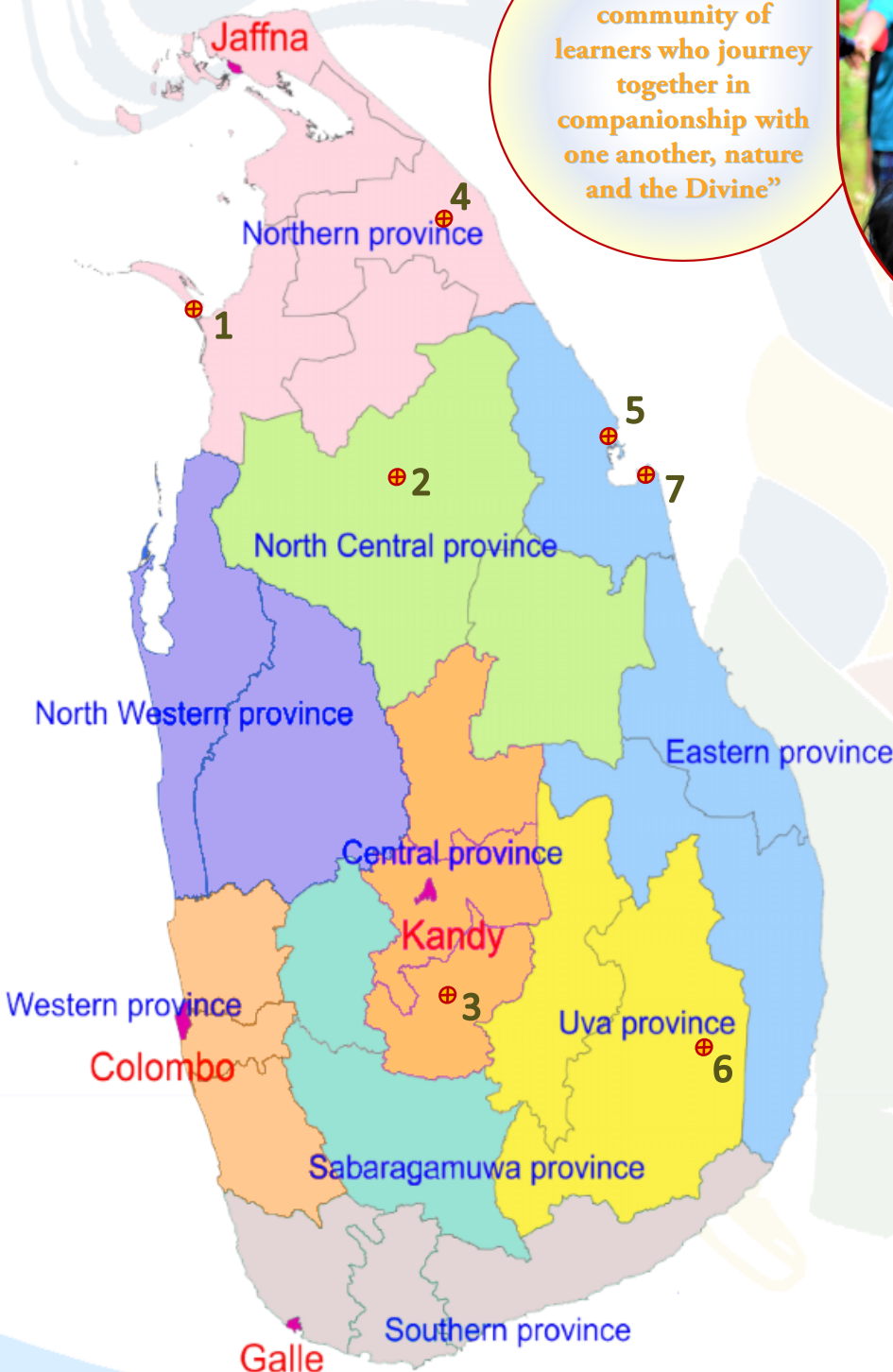
Entire Group of Facilitators, from 8 Centres (India & Sri Lanka), who attended the Global English Training Programme from 23rd- 26th July 2017

Loyola Campus



“forming young women and men who perceive the current conditions and are able to think beyond the limits of their socio-economic, religious and cultural horizons in actively creating spaces of peace, justice and reconciliation”

“a shared community of learners who journey together in companionship with one another, nature and the Divine”



- 1) Mannar
- 2) Vavuniya
- 3) Hatton
- 4) Puthukkudiyiruppu
- 5) Trincomalee
- 6) Monaragala
- 7) Sampur

