



Guide to the Catholic Church in China 2014

FOREWORD

Guide Book 2014 updates and alleviates the information contained in Guide Books 1986, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2008. Since better information is now available within each diocese, a detailed mention of each village church has been reduced to a simple list. On the other hand, more accurate information is given on the diocesan level: website, if any, electronic addresses, the diocesan staff, list of priests. A special attention has been given to the development of the Church in China in the following five areas:

1. Since 2008, more young priests were ordained and a significant number of young sisters have taken their solemn vows, yet the vocations to priesthood and religious life have significantly declined. A number of priests and sisters studying overseas have come back to their diocese. A list of the priests with the dates of their ordination is given for each diocese. Priests who have passed away or who are no longer active in the ministry have been removed from this list.
2. More places of worship have been opened, including a few pilgrimage centers. Churches with a resident priest and a telephone number are mentioned in this Guide book. The parish priests' names, however, are usually not mentioned, due to their frequent changes. For the sake of saving space, many outstations without resident priests nor telephone number are no longer listed up in the Guide Book.
3. Devotions and pilgrimages are flourishing. Town communities tend to become more lively with a rise in the number of people baptized each year. One of the reasons for such increase is the migration of rural population to towns and cities. While moving ahead, local Catholics are eager to know their historical roots. For this reason, our Guide Book 2014 maintains a historical background before each of the main regions of China. A list of the former bishops is given for each diocese since its creation.
4. After 1978, when the China Church slowly recovered from the losses of the Cultural Revolution, a number of smaller dioceses were regrouped into larger units due to administrative purposes or to the lack of priests. Dioceses created by the Holy See however retain their identity in religious matters. Moreover the new administrative divisions have not been approved by Rome yet. Therefore these new official divisions and the original ones are indicated in the Guide Book side by side.
5. Following the Pope's Letter to all Catholics in China dated 27 May 2007, we hope that former divisions between official and unofficial Catholics will slowly disappear. We drop therefore our earlier distinctions in the name lists of bishops. On the other hand, due to the latest ordination of bishops without the Holy See's mandate, we write in italics the names of these "independent" bishops, called "illicit", with special mention for those excommunicated.

Here is a short lexicon of the more important words transcribed in the official pinyin within the text in English: *dong=east, nan=south, xi=west, bei=north, zhong=center, dao=avenue, lu=road, jie=street, xiang=lane, shi=municipality, zhen=ville, xian=county, xiang=locality, cun=village, qu=district, area*. A few abbreviations are commonly used: *n-e=north-east, s-w=south-west, n-w=north-west, s-e=south-east*.

Figures, like postcode, mentioned in the Chinese part, may not be repeated in the English part.