

# 中国天主教指南 2014

## Guide To The Catholic Church in China



### Questions & Answers

#### 1) What new information is there in the 2014 version compared to the 2008 version?

Guide book 2014 reflects latest developments in the life of the Church in China. The overall up-dating of former information is accompanied with more than 100 new photos and maps of the churches/pilgrimage centers. The list of priests in each diocese has been complemented with all the ordinations which have taken place from 2008 to 2013. Mobile phone numbers of priests are mentioned whenever available.

Websites of dioceses are recorded and may be of great use to Guide users who read Chinese. For more clarity, dioceses' names have been standardized with official name first and the Holy See's name after (if different).

#### 2) How was information being collected? How accurate is the information?

Besides general information publicized on websites and Chinese Church publications, direct contacts have been established through e-mail or direct encounter with many priests. Many phone calls have been made to Mainland China from Hong Kong and Singapore to check the accuracy of the data. Some remote places have been difficult to contact and their data may not be completely up-to-date.

There are limits however to accuracy of phone numbers due to the expansion of the telephone network (with new digit to add) and to the use of mobile phone instead of land-line. Cities rapid development lead to many changes in street names and public transports: information online have been very helpful to update maps. The full list of bishops, including the underground bishops (except the few whose names cannot be revealed yet), has been carefully checked with the records of the Holy See and illegitimate bishops have been clearly listed as such.

**3) How useful is this book for Catholics visiting China and wanting to visit churches and attend Mass there?**

This Guide book is a must for Catholics who visit China without knowing the language. They can find in the English column all the information they need, especially the exact address of the local church, then show the Chinese text to the taxi driver or to any person living in that town. Local people may not know where the Catholic Church is. But when they see the address in the Guide book, they can tell you the right direction or even accompany you to the place.

If you want to attend the Sunday mass there, it is better to check in advance the mass times. The times indicated in the Guide book may be changed over a lapse of time. The addition of many local websites will help the users in checking for future changes.

The many appendixes are very helpful for the users to understand more about the local situation. The large index at the end facilitates the location of cities and counties

**4) Is there information provided about the underground/unofficial Churches in China? Do you distinguish which ones are the unofficial?**

Little information is given on the unofficial communities, except in case where we received formal approval from them (as for Heilongjiang, Wenzhou or Mindong). For obvious reasons many do not wish to be publicized or to mixed up with the officially registered communities.-Visitors who wish to contact unofficial Catholics may get the needed information through personal contacts in the open churches.

In some areas of Fujian, Hebei and other regions, unofficial Catholics are officially recognized by the local officials and their churches are registered as place of worship, but without having to join the Patriotic Association. Most of the churches mentioned in the Guide book for those dioceses are in fact unofficial.

From the view point of Faith, all the churches mentioned in the Guide book are Catholic and Catholic visitors can receive communion there without any problem.

**5) How much is the Guide selling at? Where is obtainable from?**

The Guide is selling at 20 € in Europe, 30\$ in the United States and 20S\$ in Singapore. Books can be ordered directly from Singapore Zhonglian office [www.zhonglian.org](http://www.zhonglian.org). For Bookshops : The book is sold at Carlo Bookshop in Singapore, and at Catholic Center in Hong Kong.