

For the first time in fifty years an Orthodox Church is consecrated in China



On 30 August, in Labdarin in Inner Mongolia, an Orthodox church was consecrated to St Innocent of Irkutsk, the great Russian apostle of eastern Siberia. The church was consecrated by Fr Michael Van from Shanghai. Archpriest Dionysius Pozniaiev, the priest of the Sts Peter and Paul Orthodox parish in Hong Kong, concelebrated and Orthodox came from Hailar, Harbin, Shanghai and Beijing, as well as from villages in the Three Rivers region.

The church is under the care of the Chitinsk-Zabaykal Diocese in Siberia, which presented the church with an iconostasis, furnishings and vestments. The church itself was built in 1990, replacing eighteen which had been destroyed in the area during the so-called ‘cultural revolution’ of the Maoists. It is the fourth officially registered church of the Autonomous Chinese Orthodox Church.