

Catholic Church Hierarchy in Hong Kong, 1841-1997

From 1841 until 1874 Hong Kong was a Prefecture with appointed Prefects Apostolic. In 1874, Rome raised Hong Kong to the status of a Vicariate Apostolic with appointed Vicars Apostolic. It was made a diocese on April 11, 1946.

1948

October 31: Bishop Henry Valtorta installed as first Bishop of the Diocese of Hong Kong

1949

October 9: Fr. Lawrence Bianchi appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Hong Kong.

1950

March 22: Bishop Bianchi and other Italian missionaries imprisoned in Hoi Fung, presently in Guangdong Province. At that Hoi Fung was part of the Hong Kong Diocese.

1951

September 3: Death of Bishop Valtorta.

1952

October 17: Bishop Bianchi released from Communist China.

October 26: Bishop Bianchi installed as second Bishop of Hong Kong.

1967

July 1: Fr. Francis Hsu Chen-Ping appointed Auxiliary Bishop; consecrated bishop on October 7.

December 19: Bishop Bianchi's resignation accepted. Bishop Hsu appointed Apostolic Administrator.

1969

April: Bishop Bianchi returns to Italy. (He died on February 13, 1983).

May 29: Bishop Hsu appointed third bishop of Hong Kong (installed on October 26). The direction of the Diocese is handed over to the local clergy.

1971

July 3: Fr. Peter Lei Wang-Kee appointed Auxiliary Bishop; consecrated bishop on September 8.

1973

- May 23: Death of Bishop Hsu.
December 21: Bishop Peter Lei appointed fourth Bishop of Hong Kong and installed on April 22.

1974

- July 23: Death of Bishop Lei. Fr. Gabriel Lam Cheuk Wai elected Vicar-Capitular.

1975

- April 5: Fr. John Baptist Wu Cheng-Chung appointed fifth Bishop of Hong Kong; consecrated and installed on July 25.

1988

- May 14: Pope John Paul II nominates John Baptist Wu to the College of Cardinals..
June 28 Bishop Wu made a Cardinal at the 1988 consistory.

1996

- October 20: Father Joseph Zen, SDB, appointed co-adjutor bishop of Hong Kong
Father John Tong Hon appointed auxiliary bishop of Hong Kong.
December 9: Consecrations of Bishops Zen and Tong. (Cf. Below)

