

From the Diary of Bishop John Francis Norton – 1925

Inscription....

*Diary kept for my dearest Mother
on the P. & O Steamer "Mongolia"
by John F. Norton
With the Australian National
Pilgrimage to Rome & Lourdes 1925.*

9th April, 1925

My first duty after going on shore was to go to the Archbishop's Palace to present the Bishop's compliments to the Archbishop. He received me very graciously, and after we had conversed for a while in his study, he asked me what college had I studied in."All Hallows" said I. How the dear old man's face brightened up, for he had once been a professor there and loves it intensely. He talked about it and its early history till lunch time, for he had asked me to stay. Quite a number of his priests were present, for they had not yet returned to their parishes after the Blessing of the Holy Oils that morning. A few of these I knew. One of these afterwards showed me over the Cathedral and Convent and other parochial buildings. Later on I returned to the boat and found that the Archbishop was there to see Dr O'Farrell. They had been chatting for a long time, and as the Archbishop was alone, I accompanied him in the twenty minutes' walk that separated the wharf from the Palace. To listen to his conversation was a sheer delight, for he is a very learned man and seems to know everything. During tea he kept chatting away, and needless to say I had sense enough to remain silent, lest I should miss any of it.

Later on, I assisted at Tenebrae and read a lesson. A choir of men and boys made the responses very beautifully. So that was how I spent my first day in Hobart.

