

## 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.*

12th April, 1925, Easter Sunday



I said Mass in our Cabin this morning and gave the Bishop Holy Communion. The cold weather during our stay in Hobart had not improved him, and I was glad that we would be soon in Melbourne, where we could see his Doctor again.

Our course lay along the East Coast of Tasmania, through Bass Strait and into Port Phillip. We were due at Port Melbourne at 6pm, and at that time we were only about a mile or so off the wharf, and a tug was pulling us into our berth. There was a good crowd to meet us, amongst them two Vincentians from Malvern, who came to bring the Bishop and myself back with them. He decided to remain, but I was glad to have my feet on land again. There were quite a number of priests that I knew there. I had a great sleep and said Mass late. The Bishop of Geraldton, at whose consecration I had assisted, was staying there too, so I had a long chat during the forenoon. In the afternoon, the Archbishop of Melbourne and his clergy were entertaining the pilgrims at a garden party in "Raheen" - the Archbishop's beautiful residence. Social functions of this kind are not much in my line, but it was good to meet many of the priests whom I knew, and of course the other pilgrims, especially the ladies, enjoyed themselves immensely.

That night a huge crowd, extending right into the street, filled St Patrick's Cathedral, when clergy presented him with a farewell address. The Archbishop responded. The Apostolic Delegate and the Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Sydney also spoke, but as I have the Melbourne "Advocate" giving an account of this function, I do not intend to describe it here.

Meanwhile, owing to the noise of getting on cargo, the Bishop had a very bad night on board, so we brought him to Malvern. He was very weak, but we hoped a good night's rest would revive him.