

## 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.*

#### 26<sup>th</sup> April

Dr Dwyer preached on "I am the Good Shepherd". He struck an original note by saying that when Our Lord chose to call his followers "sheep" he was likening us to probably to the most stupid animals in the whole of creation. They follow blindly. They act without the sagacity that marks the actions of the dog. Even the smallest number of these can put terror into a whole mob. It is easy enough to see the application. He concluded by saying that now that we were going to the Great Chief Pastor we should be grateful that we were no longer like sheep astray, but had only to follow the call of the Chief Shepherd to find security.



It was another frightfully hot day. The Bishop was having a very bad time, the nights being particularly trying. I'm afraid the good days of Perth made him feel so well that he was inclined to forget that he was an invalid, with the result that he took liberties with himself. The result was that when these trying days came he had no reserve to fall back on. Smothering fits used to come on when he could hardly get a breath. These of course were due to the weak state of his heart. Still he kept bravely on, for he had great confidence in the prayers and Masses of the pilgrims.

#### 27<sup>th</sup> April

Another bad day. Heavy clouds marking the skies and every now and then there were drenching showers, making everything steamy and damp. The Bishop was having a very distressing time. No matter on what part of the ship he went could he get a breeze, and he found it more and more difficult to get his breath. The nights were dreaded by him. As I have explained already our cabin in the front of the ship was right away from any breeze, even the smallest. Even the electric fans did not give much relief. He was up and down all night trying in vain to get relief.