

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.*

2nd May

The Bishop had a very bad night. Several times during it I came down to find out how he was, only to get a shake of the head from the nurse. She fears that it is the beginning of the end. It will be dreadful if the end comes in these ocean places where he would not have what the least of his flock might claim - a coffin and a grave. During the day he still continued in a low condition, as a result of the bad night.

It is exactly a month today since I left Bathurst and it seems like a century. How I wish we had never started! If the Doctors thought the Bishop was so far gone why did they not allow him to remain at home to die, instead of sending him on this journey, which is trying even on the young and strong. He would then be laid to rest in the Mortuary Chapel with the other Bishops of his See.

I am sleeping on deck these nights. The Archbishop graciously offered me a spare bed in his cabin, but I would not think of breaking in on his privacy. So I camp on deck and sleep as well as I can. There is this advantage - my sleep is not too sound and I can get down now and then and see what progress the poor Bishop is making.

