

## 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.*



### 14<sup>th</sup> May

The gale has subsided and there is no sign of any rough seas. My fear that the "Mongolia" would have been much retarded were unfounded for she did 335 miles in 24 hours, only 9 less than on the previous day.

In the afternoon the Italian Coast came into view probably about Spartunato. Later on Sicily could be seen. We passed through the Straits of Messina before bed time and a very beautiful sight they presented. The towers on either side are beautifully lighted and looked as though they had special illumination for our passage. Messina itself looks just like fairy land.

### 15<sup>th</sup> May

Second last day. Thank God. The Bishop had a very good night and I was able to give a good account to those who asked me. This is my usual morning duty, for I am subjected to quite a storm of questions as to what kind of night he has had. The non-catholic ask, "How is his Grace?" Cassino our steward musters up all his English and says, "Bishop, how is he?"

We did a good run today, 349 miles, leaving only 374 to do. So with any luck we should be in Marseilles by a little after midday tomorrow. It was close on midnight when we were passing through the Straits of Bonifacio, but only a few lights marked either the Corsican or Sardinian Coast.

