

**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.*



**22<sup>nd</sup> May**

We spent the morning of this day visiting the great Papal palace of Avignon, where the Popes lived for nearly a hundred years in the 14th century. The French Government keeps it in a good state and it is wonderfully interesting to visit the various graves used by the Popes. The Chapel is a beautiful vaulted building in the Gothic style. The attendants sound a horn and the echo keeps sounding through the vaulted roof for a long time.

The rest of the day was passed in a train journey that brought us to the next stopping place viz Nice. We spent the next few days here and it was a real blessing to most of us, for it gave us a rest after the boat. I said Mass each day in the Church of SS Francis & Paul, which was near the hotel.

I had the good fortune during these days to have a few motor drives in the company of Dr Mannix, Dr Dwyer and Father Vaughan. Once we went to the remains of the old Roman Theatre, for Nice too was founded by the Romans. Another day we went along the famous road built by Napoleon which runs along the sea shore and is called the Grand Corniche (a cornice- or picture frame). It does indeed frame a lovely picture of sea and mountain scenery. We came to the Italian border and saw the French & Italian sentries before we returned. Another day we went to Grasse, famous for its distilleries of rose perfume. We passed on the way the place where Napoleon landed from Elba for the Hundred Days. Out in the Mediterranean we could see the island of Lerins where St Patrick studied before his return to Ireland.

Another motor run we had to Monte Carlo. It is a beautiful little city, kept in the best of order, for it depends for its existence on the visitors whom it attracts. We paid a visit to the Cathedral, a fine modern structure containing the tombs of the princes of Monaco. Afterwards we went to see the famous Casino.