

Diary of Bridie Moore, Tullow, Co. Carlow 1894

A journey from Tullow to Brigidine Convent, Echuca, Australia.

Introduction

In September 1894, Bridie Moore (1877-1922) from Tullow, Co. Carlow, set sail for Australia. Her destination was Brigidine Convent, Echuca, where she intended to enter the Brigidine Sisters. Travelling with Bridie were M.M. John Synan; three professed Sisters - Teresa Flynn, Patrick Flynn and Vincent Crowe; and two other postulants - Norah Cooke and Maryanne Kenny. Bridie had strong link with Echuca as her aunt, Mother Benedict Moore, was Superior, and another relative, Sr Ursula Gaynor, was already in Echuca and entered on 8 September 1894.

Bridie left Tullow on 5 September and reached Echuca on 19 October. The group travelled first to England, and joined the ship, the *Austral*, at Tilbury, from where they sailed to Australia. She kept a diary of her voyage in two notebooks and sent them home to her family. This item comprises a transcription of Bridie's diary.

Bridie was quite young (just shy of 17 years old) when she arrived in Echuca, and it was decided that she should spend some time in the boarding school before entering. She eventually entered in 1897 and took the name Sr Gertrude. She served as a teacher, including as Principal of St Mary's School, Echuca. Sr Gertrude suffered a lot of illness during her life and died following a heart attack on 7 February 1922. She is buried at Cheltenham cemetery, Melbourne.

Editorial notes

The sentence structure in the original diary is somewhat irregular. Full stops are frequently absent and semi-colons are often used in their stead. More standard punctuation has been imposed here to enhance readability. Ampersands (&) are frequently used in the original diary and they have been replaced with the word 'and.' For the most part, capitalisation and spelling are as in the original diary. Editorial notes have been inserted in square brackets.

Transcription of diary

5th September 1894. Left home and the dear [ones] there at 10 past seven a.m. and reached Tullow at half past seven. Assisted at part of the Mass, [Remained there for quarter of an hour. After that bid goodbye to the nuns and started for the station. Father, Nin, Eddie, Aunt Johanna, John Fenlon, Pat and Mr Dawson were there waiting to see us off. Bid goodbye to them and left dear old Tullow at half past eight. Fr Kearney accompanied us and kept us entertained with some funny stories. We reached Kingsbridge [Heuston Station, Dublin] without anything particular happening. Cecilia Byrne met us there and accompanied us to the Guest House, Eccles Street. After a short time I went out with Cecilia to Castle Street remained there about an hour and then returned to the Guest House. M.M. John and her postulants had arrived while I was absent. Fr Syl. Bourke had been there while I was in Castle Street. He remained a quarter of an hour and promised to return if possible but did not do so. I think he had not time as he was going to Galway in the evening. Fr Kearney left the Guest House while I was absent. Brigid O'Brien called to see the nuns and I went out with her to the nearest confectioners shop where we bought some sweets of the best Irish manufacture. I said goodbye to Cecilia Byrne at the corner of Eccles St and Brigid O'Brien came back with me to the Guest House and said goodbye to the sisters and myself. We dined soon after Brigid leaving. Fr Kearney returned after dinner and remained with us until we started for Kingstown [Dún Laoghaire]. Bid him goodbye and left for Westland Row Terminus. Miss Ennis came with us to the Dominican Convent, Kingstown. Soon after arriving there Miss Ennis left us and promised to see us next morning. Julia McHugh and her sister called to see the nuns. The Dominican nuns were very kind. Brought us through their schools. We had tea in the novitiate. After tea we retired to the Community room and spent recreation with the nuns. There are forty-two nuns in the Community. M. A. Kenny, Nora Cooke and myself went to the dormitory at half past nine and soon after retired to rest.

Thursday 6th September. Slept very well last night. Got up at half past five, dressed and went down to breakfast. Immediately after breakfast bid goodbye to the good nuns and left for Kingstown Harbour. Miss Ennis was waiting for us and came on the boat with us. We soon bid her goodbye and left Kingstown Harbour at seven a.m. Watched dear old Ireland as long as my eyes could see it. My last glimpse of Erin fell on Howth Head and no matter where I may roam no place however beautiful shall seem like that fond land the "Island of saints and doctors". Was not sick crossing to Hollyhead [sic] but Sr M. Vincent, Sr M. Teresa and Nora Cooke were very much so. M.A. Kenny had to retire from the deck soon after leaving Kingstown but was not sick. We reached Hollyhead at half past ten a.m. and in ten minutes we were in the train bound for London. We stopped ten minutes at Chester Station and had some luncheon to which I think we all did full justice. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Wales and other counties through which we passed. I specially admired Landudno [sic] (the famous resort of tourists), Foryd, Rhyl, Conway, Crewe, Rhyl, Conway, Crewe, Rokeby, Chester and last but not least Rugby, where we had a very good laugh. We arrived at Euston Station at 6 p.m. Fr Miller met us there and brought us to the House of the Oblates, 26 Prescotts

Street. Had tea at 7 p.m. After tea retired to the library to write letters. Before we had them finished Brother Patrick announced to us that Benediction was going to commence. We went immediately to the chapel which adjoins the house. Assisted at Benediction which was given by Fr Miller. After Benediction we returned to the library and finished our letters. Soon after we bid Fr Miller goodnight and started, accompanied by Brother Patrick, for the hotel at which we were to remain the night. The hotel was only ten minutes walk from Prescott Street. Arrived at the hotel. We bid Brother Patrick good night and retired to our rooms. We did not delay going to bed and I was soon asleep. M.A. Kenny and I occupied the same bed and felt very comfortable.

Friday 7th Sept. Rose shortly before 6 a.m., dressed and accompanied by Nora and Mary A. Immediately descended to the hall where the nuns were waiting for us ready to leave for Prescott St. Then we all left the hotel. Met Fr Miller at a short distance from his residence; he was coming to accompany us. Arrived at the House of the Oblates. We went direct to the Church where Mass was being celebrated. Fr Miller came to the confessional and we all went to confession; afterwards assisted at Mass which was celebrated by Fr Miller. Had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion. Shortly after Mass Fr Miller brought us through the Church. We greatly admired a shrine of Our Lady of Grace which has been newly erected and cost £200, the figures of the angels being of pure alabaster. When we were done admiring the Church which is a nice building we returned to the House of the Oblates where we partook of a very good breakfast. Father Miller amused us very much with funny stories of English convents and their idea of religious symbols. After breakfast five nuns of the Order of Mary Immaculate came to see M.M. John. We soon bid them goodbye and left accompanied by Fr Miller for Fenchurch Station. We went on train from there to Tilbury. We arrived at the latter place at a quarter past ten. We were accosted by Miss Lennon on our way to the tender. She was accompanied by her brother.

After buying deck chairs we embarked on the tender for H.M. "Austral." It took about ten minutes to reach her; then we went on board. Fr Miller remained with us an hour or more. When the bell rang to announce that the last tender was going to leave he bid us goodbye and left us. We watched him as long as we could discern the figures on the tender. He and another priest that came to see M.M. John waved their hats and we waved our hands. Left Tilbury shortly before 1 a.m. [sic?] Remained on deck some time after leaving then went to our cabin. We wrote letters in the evening and just as I closed the last I became sea sick and had to get to bed as soon as I was able to do so.

Saturday 8th. Feast of the Nativity of B.V.M. Was not able to attend Mass this morning as we were all writhing in the pangs of sea sickness. Mary Anne and I said the Rosary on deck after breakfast. Were with the Loretto [sic] nuns today. They are very nice and improve by acquaintance. They are going to Gibraltar. Seven in number, there are two of them lay sisters; very sweet, good looking little things. Their names in religion are Sisters M. Rita and [Egidius], the latter hails from Enniscorthy. We had a long stay at Plymouth today but did not go on shore; several passengers did. There are some very nice rocks there but the town does not seem to be much above the average.

After leaving Plymouth we saw the Eddystone lighthouse, not at all the fine building we see depicted on paper. So much for pictures when we see the reality. The passengers, with the exception of the nuns, we do not speak to but I suppose we shall soon become neighbourly. There is a very nice little postulant, a Miss Tandy, going to Australia to join the Mercy Order. She is in the next cabin to ours so I think we shall soon be friends. By the way, there is a connection between her and me as she has red hair, foxy companions on board the H.M.S. "Austral." Sisters M. Vincent, Teresa and Patrick were very sick today but they are better this evening. M.M. John and some of the Loretto nuns are the best sailors on board. As the deck and saloon were partly deserted so I suppose I may infer that the most of the passengers are sea sick.

Sunday 9th September. Our (meaning M.A., Nora and myself) first Sunday on board the H. M. S. Austral. Assisted at four Masses although very sick. Last Mass was celebrated in the 2nd saloon; I think all the Catholics assisted at it. There were about twenty Irish (both sexes) present. After Mass, Fr O'Farrell, Provincial of the Redemptorists, preached a very eloquent sermon and in simple and earnest words admonished all to adhere to the one holy catholic religion no matter how they might be tempted in a foreign land. The true Irish heart showed itself during the sermon—for the womens [sic] eyes filled with tears and the mens [sic] heads bent as if to hide their emotion. The ladies on board seem rather curious to know if the nuns can marry and if we are going to join 'the sisters.' One old lady asked me 'If a nun were a profession' with many other questions too numerous to mention. I remained on deck till 7 p.m. when I felt that I could not remain any longer as I was very sick. We have to pass through the 2nd saloon to our cabin and protestant service was going on at the time above mentioned so I had to pass through their midst and heard some of their sacred hymns but was in no humour of criticising. Mr Griffiths (the minister) is a very nice man and is quite a favourite with the nuns. He pays them great attention; at first we thought he was a priest.

Monday 10th September. Had breakfast in my cabin this morning as I was not able to go to the saloon. Got up after breakfast and went on deck. You feel very lazy at sea and would not seem to care what would happen especially when sea sick. Srs Vincent, Patrick and Teresa, also M.M. John, spent some time with us early today. We do not feel lonely as the Loretto nuns and we are great friends now. By the way Loretto nuns are 2nd class passengers. One of them (Sr M. Scholastica) is a great friend of Fr Syl. Bourke's. M.M. John told her I was a cousin of his; she is very kind to me. We had quite a little party this evening in second saloon. M.M. John brought down cake and claret; she invited the Loretto nuns to partake they accepted the invitation. She, Sisters Patrick, Vincent and Teresa, Mary and Nora, Miss Tandy, myself together with the Loretto nuns made quite a formidable party and enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. There was some singing in the saloon tonight but I was not present as I preferred being on deck. The most peculiar looking fellow on board is a moor (not a surname with additional 'e'). Scarcely anyone speaks to him and he seems to avoid company. M.A. is contemplating a sketch of him which I fear never shall be completed. Is it not a pity?

Tuesday 11th September. We are all quite lively today and hoping that we have got rid of sea sickness. We sighted several steamers today. It is wonderful what fuss is made when a steamer is seen. Everyone that has a telescope has it uncased and in use while it is passing. Passed Cape St Vincent this evening. Had a grand view of it as one gentleman kindly lent us his telescope; it was a very powerful one. The cape was magnificent. It seemed to be an immense rock. There was a signal house at one end of it and you could just see the flag hoisted as we passed. There are two or three lovely arches in the cape and it was beautiful to see the sea rush in and the white spray ascend. An old gentleman pointed out to us the ruins of an ancient monastery which is said to have been founded by some saint from Palestine. Had a concert in 2nd saloon to-night. Mr Griffiths everyone's [sic] favourite. Sang several songs. Mr Dinnis, the purser, sang "Come into the garden Maud" and "The Message." He has a very fine voice. Mrs Roberts, the actress on board, sang "Daddy," a very nice song. There was a comic song entitled "My First Wife"; it was very laughable. I shall attempt to repeat the chorus "I took him by the hair of the head and I slapped him on the mat I jumped upon his breast and asked him did his first wife ever do that." "The Dear Little Shamrock" was sung by a fine middle-aged gentleman (Irish, I presume). To judge by the applause you would infer that the generality of the audience would prefer him to leave it so. The entertainment concluded with 'God save the queen' at the commencement of which all present rose from their seats and a great many joined. We of course exceptions not from necessity you may guess.

Wednesday 12th Sept. Arrived at Gibraltar early this morning. Breakfast was served at half past seven for convenience of those going ashore. We left "Austral" before ten. The Loretto nuns went before us. We had grown to like them very much. We were not long getting from the Austral to shore. As we landed we had a beautiful view of the rock and you could not adequately judge of its beauty by the finest sketch or picture. The clergymen who were on board the Austral and who were like wise out sight seeing generously hired cabs and we drove to the English Church. It is a fine building; there are some very nice statues in it but what seemed very queer to us was that they were all elegantly dressed in silk, satin, velvet, jewels etc. As we were leaving the Church a messenger came from the Bishop saying that his Lordship wished to see us (nuns, girls, priests in all thirteen). We went immediately to the palace which adjoins the Church. We were cordially welcomed by the Bishop (Dr Veuilla) [sic; Ganzalo Canilla was Vicar Apostolic of Gibraltar, 1881-1898]. He spoke English very fluently; gave each of us a beautiful white bone beads which he made and blessed himself. After leaving the palace we drove through the Spanish town and also the English town. In the former, the people seem very poor although the houses are in a very good condition. The children and the generality of the men and women are very ugly. We saw an enormous number of Spanish asses and also a great many mules. What amused us greatly was the women riding on the asses; two on each ass seated in a kind of basket. We visited the Spanish Church. It was rather cold and gloomy looking and contained no seats. In the aisle there were a great many little silver images (about two or three inches long) hanging on the

walls. I suppose they were some relics or souvenirs. The Gibraltar men are small, lazy looking, sallow, small eyed, repulsive looking fellows compared to our tall fine active Irishmen. After our drive to Spanish quarter we drove back through the English Town and out into the country to the Loretto convent where we were heartily welcomed by M.M. Joseph, M.M. Stanislaus, Sr Scholastica and M.M. Paul. The convent is simply beautiful. From every window you have the most magnificent view of the scenery around. We saw Mount Atlas, also the Coast of Africa from the windows. We lunched in the community room; tea, wine, soda milk (genuine not the condensed affair which we are being made familiar with on board the Austral), delicious grapes, prickly pears etc. After viewing the rock once more and bidding the kind nuns goodbye we came back in the cabs through the Alameda gardens where there are hedges of heliotrope [sic] and geraniums climbing the rock just as the ivy mounts the walls etc. at home. Bananas, cactus, pepper trees, prickly pear and orange trees we saw in abundance. The military stations are very large and the soldiers [sic] red coat is just as red as in England. By the way, sure nearly all Gibraltar is English except a small portion which belongs to the Spaniards. The power of England strikes you forcibly and you cannot but think of the insignificance as a nation of poor 'Holy' Ireland. We visited the town house of the Loretto nuns before we left Gibraltar. It is not as nice as the convent at Europa but that could not be expected. Brother Anthony's sister is a nun in the town house. She is very old and seemed delighted to see anyone from dear old Tullow. Her name in religion is Sr M. Christina. We were on board the 'Austral' again before half past two and she sailed shortly after. There was a dance on deck tonight; we did not join in it. M.M. John and the other sisters came to us tonight and remained an hour on 2nd class deck. We had some funny stories while they were with us. We came to our cabin at half past nine. Mary Tandy came and spent an hour with us. M.M. John gave us fruit in the evening and we had a grand feast before going to bed.

Thursday September 13th. Assisted at some of the Masses which were celebrated this morning. Was on deck part of the day admiring the blue Mediterranean and repeated some of the "Ocean" by Byron which I learned last term; thought of M. Cecilia when she was encouraging us to learn it. She told us that we might be by the sea shore and repeat it with pleasure. I find it a real pleasure now that I am on the broad ocean and it well repays the trouble of learning it although I scarcely believed M. Cecilia it would, I found it so difficult to learn. A striking example of experience and "that young people should mind what old people say." There was a fancy dress ball on first class deck tonight. 2nd saloon passengers were invited; some accepted the invitation. M.M. John kindly brought us to it for half an hour; of course, we were only lookers on and did not take part in the dancing. M. John, Srs Vincent and Patrick were with us tonight on deck. Sr M. Teresa had to retire to her cabin with toothache. Fr McAuliffe and Fr Stronge also came to 2nd Class deck while the nuns were there. They joined us and we had some funny stories and hearty laughing.

Friday 14th Sept. Was at 4 Masses this morning although not very well, after which I felt quite myself and took a very good breakfast. Saw Sr. M Teresa in the 'temporary church.' This morning she had a swollen [sic] jaw; the result of

her tooth-ache I presume. Remained on deck nearly all day as it was very warm. Mr Griffiths had us just now all in raptures listening to him singing "Shan van Vocht." When he finished we gave him a good clap; he told that it was for us he sang it. I daresay he knows we are Irish. Had a concert in 1st saloon from half past eight till half past nine. One gentleman sang a comic song entitled "Jack Jones." There were some good recitations. One, "Too good for recitation," was very amusing. Another gentleman sang "Tommy Atkins." I think the concert in 2nd saloon was better.

Saturday 15th September. Wrote a good many letters today. M.M. John promises to bring us ashore at Naples tomorrow. I am in expectation of a very enjoyable day. Spent a good part of the day on deck but not so much as yesterday as I was in the saloon writing. We were just know [sic] favoured with a song from Mr Gossham the German; he has a very fine bass voice. Mr Grant and a lady are at present playing a very pretty duet. Mr Grant plays, sings and sketches beautifully. There was great excitement caused this evening by the practice of the fire drill, such pumping of water! The life boats were unlossed [sic] but not lowered. I was in my cabin when the bell rang furiously and I daresay would have been alarmed if M.M. John had not told us of the custom of drilling the sailors every week so that they might be prepared for an emergency. M.M. John, Sisters Patrick, Teresa and Vincent were with us on deck tonight. They remained with us more than an hour. The band played on 3rd deck and there was some dancing on 2nd class deck.

Sunday 16th September. Went to confession to Fr O'Farrell. Assisted at Mass and received Holy Communion this morning. Reached Naples Bay this morning. Was quite enchanted with it, scarcely a ripple moved its clear blue waters. Went ashore at 10 a.m. We were accompanied by the same priests that were with us at Gibraltar. Our first visits at Naples were to the churches of Jesus and S. Severus, also to the Cathedral. Mass was being celebrated in each of them when we were there. I cannot find language adequate to describe the magnificence of each, especially the cathedral; the ornaments, statues and pictures were simply superb. The people do not seem very reverent during the Holy Sacrifice. They stand at the Consecration. They also talk, laugh and gaze around as if they did not recollect where they were. The most of the Italian ladies wear nothing on their heads. It seems so funny at first to see them walking the streets bare-headed. It is all chairs that are used in the churches of which there are hundreds. You would never think it was Sunday; there was such an appearance of business, nearly all the shops were open. A great many of the women seem rather lazy-looking, sitting outside their doors fanning themselves and looking as comfortable as possible but it is fashion to sit out of doors as it is always very warm. Some of the men appear to enjoy themselves very much playing cards and smoking. I do not know if the cards are the same as we use. We saw hundreds of goats when driving through the streets. It seems that it is mostly goat's milk the inhabitants use. I am sorry to say that the goats of Naples quite excel those at home even those of Wicklow and I suppose are better fed. We visited the museum after leaving the cathedral. There are a great many curiosities there from the ruins of Pompeii. We had an Italian guide. He spoke English fairly well but of course had a funny way of expressing some things. As he was showing us some of

the pictures which were formerly hung in the dining-rooms at Pompeii he said "this represents something to heat." He meant eat and when showing an anchor "this is a hanchor." One of the horses fell under our carriage and someone asked him what had happened. He answered "the horse had got unseated." There are some beautiful oil paintings and statues in the Museum and as I am not an artist I shall not attempt to describe any of them. We next visited the kings [sic] palace. There we were dazzled with the beauty and grandeur of our surroundings. The walls of the rooms were lined with the most beautiful silk; the floors were of marble which shone like glass; the furniture was exquisite; the frames of the chairs etc. in the drawingroom were made of gold; the furniture of the tea room was covered with pea-coloured stamped velvet; the theatre and ball-rooms were very large and splendidly decorated. The chandeliers in each of the rooms were made of glass and are very massive. It is candles that are burned in them. The guide told us that there are six hundred candles burning at the same time in the ball-room. We had luncheon at an hotel. After luncheon we drove to the ruins of Herculaneum theatre which was destroyed by an eruption of the Vesuvius before Christ. To see these ruins we had to go 90 feet under ground; it is very dismal looking. The walls are all covered with lava. You could not help feeling an unpleasant sensation when deprived of the light of the day and of course when we were underground we only had candle light. In the middle of the theatre with 90 feet of land over it there is a beautiful well and it can be seen with day light as there is an opening exactly over it. We also visited other Herculaneum ruins and saw the "bedhrom" (the guides [sic] pronunciation) of Antonius. We got some maiden hair fern and mosaic as souvenirs. The last place we visited was St. Elmo. There is a monastery there and from it we had a beautiful view of Mt. Vesuvius, the bay and city of Naples. The most of the inhabitants of Naples are nice looking but there are some exceedingly ugly and deformed. You should be quite amused to see the little girls of 5 or 6 years with long dresses and their hair turned up. The majority of the people of Naples are Roman catholics and there are 6000 priests in the city. We returned to the Austral about 7 p.m. Remained on deck rather late looking at the Italians selling their wares; also admiring the bay and Mt Vesuvius. The latter place appears very beautiful. At night you could see the blazes ascending amidst the volumes of smoke; it was truly an impressive sight. By the way I forgot mentioning that I saw the statue of St Januarius; the patron of Naples. It is a very fine one and is quite near the shore.

I received letters this morning from Mother, Fr Kearney, Sr. De Sales and M. Fintan. I would not have enjoyed myself half so well if I had not got them. (Sr Teresa gave me letters this morn. from dear M. Ursula and M. Thomas).

Monday 17th September. Was very tired after being ashore yesterday. Nora called me for Mass and although very lazy (my predominant failing especially when I would rather sleep a little longer. As the reader of these pages knows I generally wished to do so), got up and assisted at four Masses. Is it not grand to have such an opportunity of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice so often? We saw Stramboli [sic, Stromboli] in the distance today. A gentleman kindly lent me his telescope as I could not see very well with the one I had. There is a village near the Mountain and I saw it quite plainly; also the white lava

streaming down the Mountain. We passed through the straits of Messina this evening, saw land at each side of us and though I got no one to tell me I infer that one side was Sicily, the land of "Ulysses" or "Nowan" and "Polyphemus" and on the other side the South of Italy. So much for my Geography. We passed the last of the Continent of Europe at sunset tonight. M.M. John, Sisters Patrick, Vincent and Teresa were with us for an hour and a half in 2nd saloon tonight. There were some very nice songs sung by Mr Griffiths, Mr Grant, Mrs Roberts and Mr Gosham. Mr. Grant and a lady played a duet. Alas! the next port we reach shall be in Africa. Europe which contains dear holy Ireland shall soon be far behind.

Tuesday 18th September. Nothing remarkable happened today. Was up for Mass or Masses I should say as usual. Today being baggage day saw Marian and Nora unfolding their treasures for the coming week. Nora did not forget the bottle of port wine. Was on deck tonight with the nuns and Fr Treacy. M.M. John and Miss Tandy told some funny stories. The band played on deck tonight; there was some waltzing but we were too deeply engaged listening to the stories to pay much attention to dancing.

Wednesday 19th September. Alas! for human frailty. We are all with the exception of M.M. John writhing in the pangs of sea sickness again. I went to Mass this morning but very soon had to leave and get to my cabin as soon as possible. I remained all day in my cabin not being able to leave it. Managed to get on deck before tea; felt much better after tea and wrote home about 8 p.m. Of course the sea was awfully rough or we would not have been so upset. It is getting a little calmer and we hope to have a pleasant day tomorrow at Port Said.

Thursday 20th September. Was not up for Mass this morning; felt very weak and did not at all feel equal to going ashore but as the Austral "was coaling" reason prevailed and I left the ship with M.M. John, Sisters Teresa, Patrick, Vincent, Marian, Nora, Miss Tandy and five priests. It was half past one and we leaving and we did not return till half past four. The first place we visited was the Franciscan Church; it is a very nice building and is more like the churches at home than any of those I have seen since I left Ireland. The nuns performed the way of the Cross. The pictures and statues were very nice. One statue I especially admired was Our Lord falling under the Cross; it was enclosed in a glass case and a special indulgence was granted to all who recited a Pater Ave and Gloria before it. After leaving the church we went to the Mosque or Mahomedan temple. We would not be allowed to enter unless we took off our boots; we did not do so but were content to look in at the worshippers lying prostrate adoring. From the Mosque we went to the convent of the Good Shepherd. Two English speaking sisters came to the parlour to us. One of them was from Waterford. They very kindly brought in some wine and biscuits which we partook of gratefully as we were very thirsty. They afterwards brought us to their garden and chapel. The latter is a little gem. [The] nuns were chanting vespers while we were in the chapel. From the Convent we wended our way towards the harbour. On our route we went into a shop; Marian wanted some papers etc. I bought a copy book to continue my diary as I think I shall have this filled with rubbish before I reach Melbourne.

All the party with the exception of Marian, Fr Griffin and myself went directly to the boats after leaving the shop above mentioned but as we had to purchase fans which I daresay we shall want in Red Sea we went to a shop and purchased very nice ones. When we returned to the harbour the nuns and some of the priests had left for "Austral." The rest were waiting for us; we got into the boat immediately and were not long reaching the ship. The town of Port Said is chiefly built of wood with straight wide dusty streets. It now contains a population of 6000 inhabitants although I am told it would have been difficult to find one hundred people at that spot twenty years ago. On the whole Port Said has a flourishing appearance. One of the most serious obstacles to its rapid advancement is the absence of fresh water. It is provided with docks, basins and quays and has a harbour stretching out a couple of miles into the sea. The Austral slowly left Port Said at a quarter to six p.m. I must not forget mentioning the little Arabs; they looked so queer diving in the water more like animals than human beings. You would imagine their skin is nut brown and you could only see their heads and necks above the water. As it was rather late when we entered the canal we did not see much of it. The search light shone beautifully as soon as it was dark. As the night was falling fastly we saw 9 or 10 camels with their burdens on the edge of the canal. The nuns and Father Rafferty were with us on deck tonight; two steamers passed between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. We are all regretting that we will have to pass through the greater part of the canal during the night. I am told that it cost the company £1750 to pass through the canal on this occasion. The charge is according to the amount of cargo and the number of passengers.

Friday 21st September. Felt so tired after yesterday that I did not get up for Mass this morning. Went on deck as soon as I was dressed and ascertained that we were not yet out of the canal; reached Suez at half past eleven a.m. Stopped a short time while the ship was being provided with fruit and vegetables. Was on deck the greater part of the day. We expect to be in the Red sea tomorrow morning. We felt the heat very much today. From Suez we passed through a gulf from which we could see land at each side. Entered Red Sea tonight although I thought we would not do so till tomorrow. After leaving the Gulf the steamer kept well out to sea but I am told that the mountains nearest to the entrance of the gulf consist of a mass of haematite of a deep ruddy hue rising abruptly from the sea to the height of 1,530 feet. The red mountain probably communicated its name to the whole sea, of which it forms the portal. The nuns, Fr Jones and Fr Kerwick were with us on deck tonight. The band played and some of the passengers danced.

Saturday 22nd September. Was up for two Masses this morning. Went on deck before breakfast. We all feel the heat very much. Passed Daedalus light house at noon today; it is very isolated [and] built out in the middle of the sea miles from every human habitation. It is built on a coral reef and does not seem very large but the "Austral" was nearly three miles from it so we could not well judge of its size. The nuns, Fathers Treacy, Jones and McAuliffe were on deck with us tonight.

Sunday 23rd Sept. Third Sunday on board the "Austral". The heat was

intense last night; a great many slept on deck but we were not among the number. Was up before six this morning, got confession, assisted at some of the early Masses and received Holy Communion. Marian was ill this morning but is quite well now, half past nine p.m. Had last Mass in 2nd saloon at 10.45 this morning. Fr. Stronge celebrated. After Mass, Fr O'Farrell read the epistle and gospel and preached a very nice sermon; taking for his text "Many are called but few are chosen." He spoke in a very touching manner of the love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and exhorted [sic] all to approach the Blessed Eucharist as often as possible. When the sermon was finished Fr O'Farrell recited three Hail Marys to beg of the B.V.M. to obtain for all a great love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We were nearly dissolved with the heat today but it is not so bad tonight; the thermometer is 90° in the shade. The nuns and four priests were on deck with us tonight.

Monday 24th Sept. Was up at half past six this morning. Assisted at three Masses. Slept very well last night notwithstanding the heat. A committee has been formed for the arrangement of tournaments etc. The programme consists of whist, euchre, cribbage, draughts, potato race, high and low jumps, thread the needle etc. etc. Games of whist were played today. Prizes were awarded to the winners; the lucky ones were Mrs Wilson and Mr Crowley (an Irishman). Passed several islands today, "the twelve apostles" included. There was a concert on 2nd class deck tonight. There were some very nice songs sung. Mrs Roberts sang "Ora pro Nobis" and "Ave Maria" beautifully. A very amusing and instructive recitation "The Shadow on the Blind" was given by Mr Hayden. A pianoforte solo "True Love Gavotte" was played by Mrs Slade. Mr E. Grant and Mrs Slade played a duet at the commencement of the concert. As usual the last song was the national anthem. Was at home in spirit many times during the day. I fancied on the Race course in the same spot as last year looking at the immense gathering scattered in various directions, the sun shining brightly and all seeming deeply interested. I only hope that my fancy was a reality and that the meeting was a great success. I trust that Nin was as fortunate as he was at Carnew. It is warmer tonight than it was last night; the thermometer was 92°.

Tuesday 25th Sept. Was up at six this morning. Slept fairly well last night; I woke about half past one. Saw Marian and Nora in a terrible state lying on the floor of the cabin; they were nearly exhausted with the heat. Could discern Aden in the distance about noon. Now we are fairly out of the Red Sea and it is needless to say that we are not sorry for leaving it behind. The heat was almost unbearable. It was far more intense than when M.M. John was coming home. Such drinking of ice-water; lying about; looking for cool places and none were to be found. Still I must say that I was agreeably surprised and it was not as warm as I fancied it would be. Future "Tullow emigrants" may not be afraid to go through the ordeal as I hope they will find as I did that their imagination has highly exaggerated it. Of course you would think at times that the heat could not be worse, especially when you could feel your clothes literally dreeing with perspiration; then when you would become rather cool the feeling would be far from pleasant. The nuns, Fathers Rafferty and Delaney were with us on deck tonight. We played cards but did not get on very well as some of the company did not know how to play them.

Wednesday 26th Sept. Was up early this morning. Marian and Nora slept on deck last night; very few passengers remained in their cabins. Assisted at Mass this morning as usual, it is very trying on the priests to celebrate. You could see the beads of perspiration dropping off their faces. Quite a commotion was caused among the passengers this morning by the appearance of two savages in a little boat rowing towards the "Austral," and by the stopping of the latter. It appears that a fishing boat which we noticed had signalled and the officers knowing that the crew should be in distress stopped the ship. When the savages came near they showed water bags and of course it was understood that they wanted water. A rope was lowered to the boat and they tied a leather bag to it. It was raised, filled with water and let down to the boat. As soon as it got there the savage that was nearest, opened the bag and put his head into the water. The other poor fellow pounced on the bag, got his head into the water also and both drank until they quenched their thirst I suppose. They were given three bags of water and a bag of biscuits. They were fine, strong looking specimens of the savage race; they were almost naked. Their skin was of a very dark brown colour. One of them had a head of thick curly brown hair. The other had no hair on his head. It is wonderful how they live exposed to the scorching sun. Mr Dennis [spelled Dinnis elsewhere in the diary], the purser, told us that it was not an uncommon thing to be stopped by the savages in search of food and water and that it cost the orient company more than five pounds to stop the ship as there was waste of coal and time. There is a sudden change this evening from fine to comparatively [sic] rough weather. I am again suffering from mal de mer. I was in hopes that I had quite got rid of that unpleasant visitor. Oh! What a queer sensation. I feel as if I would not mind if I were thrown into the sea.

Thursday 27th Sept. Was fairly well this morning. I suffered from seasickness during the day. I have many comrades in distress as nearly all the passengers are ill. Nora and Marian have escaped for so far. Slept in my chair on deck for three or four hours this morning. Had my dinner in my cabin as I did not feel [equable] to leave it. There was a concert in 1st saloon tonight. Marian, Mary Tandy and I went to it. Nora would not come although she was not sick. "Killaloe" was sung beautifully and a comic song "Hooligan" caused great amusement. Sr Vincent did not attend at the concert as she was sick in her cabin. Srs Patrick and Teresa were sick today. M.M. John was not. After the concert Marian and I went with the nuns to see Fr Forde who has been very ill. He was on deck sitting on his chair. We remained about half an hour. Then we came to second class deck and stopped there till after then.

Friday 28th Sept. Was not up for breakfast this morning. I felt thoroughly out of sorts. It was not so rough today. Nothing remarkable happened today. Was on deck tonight with the nuns and several priests. Remained for two hours with them. I feel quite myself now. The nuns are also very well and I hope that we all have fully paid our tribute to Neptune.

Saturday 29th Sept. There was a partial eclipse of the sun this morning. Wrote letters home and to the Convent. We expect to reach Colombo on Monday. It was rather warm today. There was a fancy dress ball on 2nd class

deck tonight. The band played beautifully. We did not see much of the dancers as we were on 1st class deck with the nuns. Only one lady and two gentlemen were in fancy dress. The other ladies and gentlemen wore evening dresses and suits respectively. Saw the lights of a steamer in the distance tonight.

Sunday 30th Sept. Assisted at several Masses this morning. After breakfast went on deck. Saw some of the Laccadive Islands at 10am. One seemed very small, the other rather large. There appears to be a great quantity of trees growing on those islands. There is a very nice light-house built on the larger island. Fr Kerwick (Callan) celebrated last Mass in 2nd saloon today. The usual congregation was present although more of the "Irish" Catholic passengers on board assisted at the early Masses this morning. After last Mass Fr O'Farrell preached a beautiful sermon on the love of God for sinners which He manifests in the sacrament of Penance. He admonished all the Catholics on board to go to confession during the coming week so that they might have the opportunity of receiving the Blessed Eucharist on Rosary Sunday. After the sermon Fr O'Farrell recited three Hail Marys in honour of the Blessed Virgin that she might obtain for all the grace of making good confessions. Watched the sun setting this evening. It was lovely and seemed to sink gradually into the sea. I understand that we are nearly six hours in advance of Irish time. The sun set at six o'clock so I thought they should be going to last Mass at home. It is rather sad to be counting back the hours to fancy what the dear ones are doing at home. If the time were only the same I could easier imagine what was going on at home. Passed rather near a pretty large ship after sunset. You would imagine it was a little street; the lights shone beautifully. Protestant service was held in 2nd saloon tonight. We heard the singing very distinctly on deck. Marian, Nora, Mary Tandy and I were on 1st class deck tonight with M.M. John and four priests. We remained an hour with them. No games, even innocent ones, are played by non-Catholics on Sunday. The band does not play as they do not favour any music except it be of a religious character.

Monday 1st October. Was up early this morning. Assisted at some Masses as usual. Came in sight of Colombo about quarter to four this evening. The view as we entered the harbour was lovely – such a quantity of cocoa-nut [sic] trees, beautiful houses at least they seemed so as we passed slowly in. There was quite a little town of boats and steamers in the harbour. The "Austral" stopped at half past four and a magnificent stock of Arabs greeted us; all in various little boats of such a queer structure. I have never seen the like of them before. The most of them were like planks of wood with large pieces of sticks fastened on for seats; all these poor fellows to their own trade of course some with fruit, more with lace, porcupine quill boxes, ebony boxes, fans etc etc. What amused me most was the divers crying out "dive, dive, dive, threepence, twopence, sixpence." A great many people threw money into the sea in order to see them dive after it. Then for the diving; as soon as the poor little urchins would see the money falling into the water oh! such a scrambling to see which would get the prize and if it were copper they seemed rather disappointed and cried out "silver, dive." As soon as they got back to their little boat after diving two or three stood up on the seats of it and commenced

beating their arms against their sides by the way of accompaniment to the song "Ta ra ra boom de-ay" which they sang with all their might but I must say it was not very melodious. Nora, Marian, Mary or I did not know that we were going ashore till M.M. John came to us shortly after the boat stopping. She told us to be ready immediately. Then there was a fuss surely trying to dress and tidy ourselves. We managed however to get on our things and were soon in the tender which was to bring us to shore with M.M. John, Sisters Teresa, Patrick and Vincent. We were about ten minutes going from "Austral" to land. We walked through the streets accompanied by a guide. Our first visit was to the church of St Philip Neri, a very poor looking building, scarcely any decorations. The Blessed Sacrament is not kept in it so it was not a bit like a chapel – more like a barn I fancy (not meaning disrespect). M.M. John gave the guide directions to conduct us to the convent of the "Good Shepherd" a distance of two miles from the harbour. Could view everything as we passed through the town. Most of the shops are large and of a good business [sic] looking aspect. Such crowds of natives – horrid black half-naked creatures we saw as we passed through the streets; nearly all even all the poorest wear rings in their noses and ears, and bracelets on their arms. Several rick-shaws (small cars drawn by a man and only holds one passenger) passed us; the drawers of those rick-shaws travel as fast as a horse, I think even faster, and would carry you a mile for sixpence. Surely it is a true saying "That one half the world does not know how the other half lives." As the convent is situated in the country we had to walk along a very nice road. When we left the town behind it was very like the roads at home. On one side we saw lovely green corn and on the other such lovely trees and flowers. We were rather tired by the time we reached the convent where the nuns very kindly welcomed us. After resting a short time in the parlour and taking some refreshment one of the nuns brought us to see the convent chapel, the farmyard, the novitiate for the native sisters and the orphanage. The chapel is lovely. One of the nuns was saying the Rosary aloud and the orphans in an apartment near the chapel were responding. There are twenty-five native sisters. They are a different order from the "Good Shepherds" but they are subject to the directors of that order. The native sisters only make annual vows. The professed sisters wear black habit, white veil, gamp and forehead-band. The only difference between the novices and the professed nuns is that the latter wear crosses suspended from their necks and the former do not; the postulants wear black habits and white caps. These black nuns seem very funny and the most of them kept laughing the whole time we were with them. They have four convents to which a certain number drive every day in their carriages drawn by oxen to teach the little blacks. The nuns of the "Good Shepherd" have one thousand orphans under their charge. We saw a great number of them. It was quite dark by the time we had seen through the different parts of the convent. When we returned to the parlour Frs O'Brien, O'Reilly, Cullen and Rafferty were waiting for us so we bid the kind nuns goodbye and left the convent. We got some leaves as souvenirs. When we got to the street we found that carriages were not waiting for us as we expected. The priests sent a messenger for two carriages. While we were waiting for them to come we went to the Cathedral which is quite near the convent. It was closed but the sexton seeing that we wished to get in opened the door and we all entered. It is a very fine building; the decorations are not very elaborate. We could not

get a good view of the pictures etc as we had only two or three small tapers giving us light. We remained about ten minutes in the cathedral and then returned to the street where we waited until a carriage arrived. Of course one could not hold eight so the priests who had their carriage waiting while they were in the convent insisted on four of us getting into theirs as they were staying at the house of the Oblate Fathers for the night and had only a quarter of a mile to walk from where they were. We bid them good-night and started for the harbour. The drive was beautiful. We had to pass by the sea-shore and had a lovely view of all the ships and boats. They look magnificent. They lights shone splendidly and it was then it would come to your mind that in reality they were floating palaces. We reached the harbour at half past seven, reembarked on the tender that was going to "Austral." Was not long reaching the latter. When we got on deck we found that it was full of coal-dust so we descended to our cabins and put on our dark clothes which were coal-proof. M.M. John sent for us. We went to 1st saloon where she had bread, butter, biscuits and porter. We were very glad to get it as we were fairly famishing. We all returned to 1st class deck and remained there till after nine o'clock when Marian, Nora and Mary went to supper which is served from nine to half past. I did not go. There is tea served every night at half past nine in 1st saloon. While the others were away at supper Sr M. Teresa brought me down and we got a delicious cup of tea and some biscuits. After tea we returned to deck and the others came back from supper. We remained on deck till half past ten, saw the blacks carrying the coal from the boats to the ship. They were to [sic] numerous to count and you could scarcely imagine they were human beings all covered as they were with coaldust.

Tuesday 2nd October. Awoke this morning shortly after six. The first thing I heard was the shouting of the blacks outside the ship and got up immediately. Went on deck as soon as I was dressed. Nora was there before me. Fr Treacy was with her admiring the "beauties." Remained on deck till after seven when we went to Mass which was celebrated by Fr O'Farrell. During the holy sacrifice we were very much distracted by the blacks shouting and singing. Came on deck after Mass and stopped there till breakfast. Saw a great many of the passengers who were out during the night returning. Three second saloon passengers got off at Colombo but we have got two new gentlemen. There is a very nice light house and a beautiful break water there. Left Colombo and the "spicy breezes" at half past eight. Passed the last of the island of Ceylon at about three o'clock today. The "Ormuz" passed this evening; she appears much larger than the "Austral." I daresay the letters which we wrote at Colombo shall go home by the Ormuz (D.G.) It was so cool on deck tonight that we had to wear our wraps. Fancy only 6° north of the Equator and it is like an autumn's night at home. It would be very warm only there is a monsoon going on. M.M. John, Sisters Teresa, Patrick and Vincent were with us on the deck tonight.

Wednesday 3rd October. Had my first lesson in Algebra from Sr M. Vincent this morning. The weather is rather cool today. The sea is somewhat rougher and some of the passengers were sick this morning. There were athletic sports on 1st class deck this evening. Some of the items of the programmes were – potato race which consisted in a certain number of potatoes being

placed at a certain distance from each other and two competitors have to pick up the same number each, though only one at a time, and return with it to a bucket till they have the required number picked up. The person that has all the potatoes in the bucket first wins the race. The bag racing was very funny, a great many of the racers fumbled. There was also three legged race – the competitors ran in pairs in this race, a leg of each being tied together. The little boys on board had their hands tied behind their backs and a tart placed in a plate. Each had to eat one. Of course they could not take them in their hands and they had to stoop down and get pieces in their mouths. The first that had the tart eaten won the prize. The tug-of-war was most exciting and was last on programme. Eight Irish priests were on one side, the two Australian priests and six foreign gentlemen were on the other. The ‘Irishmen’ proved themselves worthy of the name and pulled gallantly. There was a dispute as to which side was winner as it was a very well contested game. So it was decided that it would be played again tomorrow. I hope our priests shall win. A gentleman remarked to Nora today when the tug of war was over that all they wanted was the “shillelagh” as they were real strong active Irishmen. Had some fun on deck tonight. It is a usual thing to play jokes on the passengers when crossing the equator. So as we were nearing it Mr Belcher (a 2nd saloon passenger) asked Marian to have a look at the southern cross through a smoked glass. She looked through it but could see no southern cross and when she took the glass from her eyes her face was partially covered with black; of course there was quite an uproar when the joke was played and Mr Belcher enjoyed it immensely. There was a beautiful sunset this evening. No painter’s brush could give you an idea of an equatorial sunset. Oh! such lovely tints of red, gold, blue and grey. I was nearly in an ecstasy as “I gazed upon the sunset and gazed upon the sea my native land was far away and all who are dear to me I shed a tear of sorrow and breathed a silent prayer farewell my own loved country farewell my people dear.”

Thursday 4th October. Was slightly sea-sick this morning. There was sports on 2nd class deck today. The programme consisted of throwing weights, high and low jumps, three legged race, potato race and egg and spoon race. The latter consisted in placing a potato on a spoon without letting it fall off the spoon. Two persons are started together and which ever of them gets to the winning post first wins. This is continued till all those that have entered plays and then the different champions compete and the first in wins the prize. I ran in the potato and egg and spoon races. I won in the former and also in the latter but the lady with whom I ran the latter disputed and said I knocked off her potato so I consented to run again although I need not if I wish to contend as the judge would have given his decision in my favour. So I dropped my potato in my last endeavour and of course lost the race. There is a cat in 2nd saloon very like the one Pollie gave to Pat Dawson; they must be relations. The one here is a great pet with the waiters. It was lovely and cool today, such a beautiful breeze a blowing. I nevered [sic] imagined there could be such cool weather at the Equator. The tug of war was not continued on 1st class deck today. Father Neptune came on board tonight. He brought letters to the captain, Mr and Mrs Alderson (actor and actress) and Fr O’Farrell. In the letter to the latter he wished the nuns and priests every success in their mission beneath the Southern Cross. I think it was one of the sailors that

personified Fr Neptune. There was a concert in 2nd saloon tonight. Mr E. Grant and Mrs Slade opened the performance by playing a duet "Qui Vive." Mrs Roberts sang "The Star of Bethlehem" beautifully. Mr Griffiths (the minister on board) and Mr Dinnis (purser) sang a vocal duet "The Larboard Watch." "Fr O'Flynn" was sung by Mr Astley. Mr Roberts sang "After the Ball" very nicely. As usual the performance closed with the National Anthem. There were also many more songs sung. A great many of the priests were present and our four nuns also. There are four Sacred Heart nuns and two of the order of the Faithful Companions on board but I do not know them as they keep very much to themselves.

Friday 5th October. First Friday of this month. Got confession and had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion this morning. One Friday more and I shall have my nine First Fridays completed I trust (D.V.) I shall be then safe in Echuca. Had a regular down pour of rain all day and had plenty of work for our 'sea legs' as it was the roughest day we had since we came on board. There was an entertainment in 1st saloon. 2nd saloon passengers were invited. The entertainment consisted of simple curiosities such as the red sea by night and fish in oils. The former was represented by a large 'C' done in red paint. The latter consisted of a plate of sardines in oil. There were many more things too numerous to mention but I must not forget noting that the meeting of Wellington and Blucher was represented by a blucher and a cap boot. There was also wax works (not genuine) shown. There were some of the passengers dressed in certain costumes such as "bluebeard" and his wife and old "mother hubbard." They were screwed up by the way and made move as the director of the show wished. It was rather amusing and was nearly like the wax work that was at Tullow concert July twelvemonths.

Saturday 6th October. Was up early this morning. Assisted at several Masses and had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion. The sports were continued on 2nd class desk today. Competed in two races but did not win either – they were thread the needle and chalking the pig's eye. In the former you have two needles and two pieces of thread given you; you place the needles in a cork and give them to a gentleman who holds them at one end of the deck. Then you and another competitor are started from the other end of the deck; both run to where the gentlemen are and thread the needles. Whoever is back first to the place started from wins the race. Chalking the pig's eye is very simple in itself but very hard to be done – a pig is drawn out on deck with chalk and then the competitors are blindfolded one by one and a piece of chalk given them. Whoever places a stroke near where the pig's eye should be wins the prize. By the way the prizes are to be distributed on Thursday evening. It was very wet this evening. Everyone had to retire from deck to the saloon. Was not speaking to any of the nuns today. Fathers Rafferty and Fleming were with us on deck this evening.

Feast of the Most Holy Rosary **Sunday 7th October.** Assisted at the early Masses which were celebrated as usual in 1st class drawingroom. Mass was celebrated at a quarter to eleven in 2nd saloon – celebrant Fr Rafferty. After the first Gospel Miss Bastian (1st saloon passenger) played "Ave Maria" and Mr Dinnis (purser) sang it beautifully. You may be sure it was quite a treat to

have singing at Mass even if it were not like the singing at home. Mr Dinnis has a splendid voice. At the conclusion of Mass Fr O'Farrell read the Epistle and Gospel of the day and preached a lovely sermon taking for his text "Behold from henceforth all nations shall call thee Blessed." He spoke in a very touching manner of devotion to our holy Mother of the Rosary and said that our very agreeable voyage up to this Mass was chiefly due to the many rosaries that have been recited by pious lips on board the "Austral." He exhorted all to preserve [sic, persevere] to devotion to the Rosary for now that we were going into a foreign land we would meet with untold temptations that we never dreamt of. The sermon was very impressive and caused some tears to flow. Fr O'Farrell said as a mark of gratitude to God for our safe voyage all the Catholics present (there were some protestants listening to the sermon) should subscribe according to their means to the Marine Charities. I think nearly all present acceded to his wish. Had rosary in 1st saloon tonight. Before each decade there was an explanation of the mystery for contemplation. At the conclusion of each ten Hail Marys a verse of "Hail Queen of Heaven" was sung. After the Rosary etc "Faith of our Fathers" was sung very nicely and at the end of the service the Magnificat was chanted. We were on deck with the nuns and some priests for an hour tonight. There was Protestant service in 2nd saloon at 8p.m. and a sacred concert after it. I am thinking that the Sacred Heart Meeting is going on at home now (Tullow) (10 p.m. here). I am really tired of sea life and only wish that I was in Melbourne. Only a little more than a month since I left home and yet it seems such an age. Often do I put the question to myself what are they doing at home now.

Monday 8th October. Assisted at four Masses this morning. There was a birth on board last night in 3rd class hospital. The mother is from Co. Kildare and a Catholic. The baby is a girl. I think she shall be baptized tomorrow. I was speaking to Miss Lennon today. We were on 1st class deck with the nuns tonight. Had a very good sleep in 2nd saloon this evening. Sr Vincent came to give me a lesson in Algebra and when she saw me sleeping she did not waken me. I think it would be a very difficult thing to do as I sleep very soundly. It is wonderful how sleepy a person gets on board of ship. I would never dream of sleeping in the day at home except I were sick and here can scarcely keep my eyes open after dinner and very often after breakfast.

Tuesday 9th October. Arose as usual and attended Mass, Masses I should say, this morning. Went on deck after breakfast and enjoyed the initiation of Mr West (rather an innocent fellow I think) into the "push" fraternity – a company of successful Coolgardie gold-miners who are returning to Australia. They continually play, nap, sing, drink and jest and on the whole are a good-hearted set. They are the cause of most of the fun on deck. I daresay they knew that Mr West would be easily duped as they are always asking him questions about Australia (he has lived there some time and was on a visit in India) pretending they know nothing about that country. Such absurd questions "Is Australia a big place. As big as England." He answered "Oh! Yes my word. Quite a big place." I overheard one of them ask him "Does any wild plums grow there?" To return to the initiation, Mr West was duly installed in a large chair, his hands and feet were tied and soap brushed into his hair. Last but not least a bag of sand placed on his chest. He was carried in this plight

by the “push” around the deck. Mr Jeff “kernel” (colonel) director. When this process was over the “push” put on him very hard to go to the bar and treat the whole company. By his gesticulations I guess that he did not wish to comply with their request nor do I think he did so. All kinds of drink is very dear here. A small bottle of porter or ale 6d, the same for a lemon squash; a bottle of port wine 5s. I shall not quote anymore as the prices are simply enormous. A fancy dress ball on 2nd class deck to-night. Mrs Sawell looked splendid as Britannia – white muslin dress, diadem, bracelets and Union Jack draperies. Mrs Roberts went as a hospital nurse and I think was universally acknowledged as belle of the ball. She looked exceedingly pretty. Mr Roberts, a troubadour, was very nice.

There were many other fancy dresses too numerous to mention. The dancing commenced at 8pm and continued till 10.30 when all marched to 2nd saloon to partake of the good things that were ready – a beautiful supper supplied for 2nd saloon passengers and 1st saloon visitors who were at the ball by the Orient Company (not a usual thing), cold meat, jellies, pastries, fruit etc etc to which I think Nora, Marian and I did full justice. We sat at the same table as usual and had some visitors Mrs Adair (from Co. Antrim. I like her immensely she is very kind to us), Mary Tandy, Mr and Mrs Whitehurst and Mr Grant. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly. We did not see much of the dancing as we were with the nuns in 1st class drawing-room where some very nice songs were sung by Fathers Forde, O’Farrell, Griffin and Dwyer, M.M. John and Mr Griffiths. The “Irish Jaunting Car” sung by Fr O’Farrell was very amusing. Miss Bastian played the accompaniments.

Wednesday 10th October. Passed the day just as usual in a lazy good for nothing kind of way; nothing to be seen but the deep pathless sea and the blue sky; not even a flying fish did I see today. The weather has become extremely cold and I feel the change very much. I saw myriads of flying fish after entering the Indian Ocean. They seemed like little white birds. Had a lesson in Algebra from Sr M. Vincent today. Also had a visit in our cabin from Strs Teresa and Patrick. It quite amuses me when I say “pass the cream please” at breakfast or tea and as Marian remarked tonight that it was a mockery to call the condensed affair “cream.” I perfectly agree with her but still cannot help making the slip. What we wished for most when in the Red Sea was a drink of “Irish” butter milk but our wish was useless and I daresay shall be so for some time to come. There was an entertainment in 1st saloon tonight. We were there – the following is the programme.

Overture “La Czarina” Austral Band
Comic song “The Jap” Mr Roberts
Recitation “Big Will” Mr Alderson
Song “For You” Mrs Roberts
Comic song “The Tin Soldier” Mrs Cosham
Recitation “Hans Breitmann’s Party” Mr Bernage
Song “Alabama Coon” Mrs Roberts

Operetta

"Blind Beggars"

Characters

Jack Morgan Mr Mageur

Mr Buffets Mr Dinnis

Pedestrian Mr Johnson

God Save the Queen

Mrs and Mr Roberts quite enchanted the audience – Mr Cosham's song was very amusing. The operetta was very good.

Thursday 11th October. Was not up for Mass this morning as I did not feel very well. Rather a sad accident happened this morning quite simply. Mr McLorrian and Mr E. Grant were wrestling and the ship was rolling. Mr Grant fell and broke his ankle. It all happened in about five minutes – only tricking and yet a sad sequel. The Doctor says that Mr Grant shall not be able to walk for six weeks; he is an organist in Sydney and has his nephew on board. We are having it rough today. It quite amuses to see everyone staggering about trying to keep on their legs which is no easy matter I assure you. At tea I could not help laughing; everything was sliding about the table. Prizes distributed tonight to the winners of the races in the recent sports. I got a lava brooch as 1st prize for the potato race. There was also some singing. Mr Roberts sang "The Cat Came Back" and Mr Dinnis, "Wash my Collar Mother." Both were very amusing. Mr West is just now amusing us with his silly talk – he is a regular fool to judge by his talk. Mr Griffiths has been urging him to sing or recite; he says when he talks he says something and that he feels like walking on stilts. Mr Griffiths pretended that he did not know what stilts were and asked Mr West to explain. He did so in a very comical manner – raising his feet very high and walking around the saloon.

Friday 12th October. Very rough last night. Slept very little. I am quite done up this morning. Very cold. Could not remain on deck. Just like winter at home. An entertainment given by Mr Belcher in 2nd saloon this morning. He had a camera and pretended to take photos instantaneously whereas he had pictures prepared beforehand to represent the different persons. Past Cape Leeuwin this evening. I did not see it when passing as I was asleep in my cabin at that time. But when I learned that we had passed it I went on deck and saw it in the distance – the first sight of Australian land – the land of the golden fleece beneath the Southern Cross. Will this new land ever be as dear to me as the far distant Emerald Isle? No! no! It is impossible. Rough! rough! rough! today. Such fun to see everyone literally tumbling about! This day five weeks we came on board the "Austral." A week hence I expect D.V. to land at Melbourne.

Saturday 13th October. When I awoke this morning I was pleased to find that the "rolling" had stopped for a while as the "Austral" had dropped anchor and we had arrived at the first Australian port (Albany). My feet were literally frozen last night. I thought I should never go asleep as they had nearly refused to get warm in spite of being wrapped up in my "Ballymore" and

knitted petticoats. Ah! I had nobody's warm feet to come in contact with last night. We did not go ashore at Albany. We were on deck all day (that is till 3pm when the "Austral" moved slowly out of port) admiring the town of Albany and the surrounding scenery. The town, if town it may be called, seems rather nice. The most of the land is hilly. I think it is rather barren but still it is picturesque. I liked it very much though I only saw one small patch that I could call "real green." A great many 2nd saloon passengers disembarked, among whom were Mr Griffiths, Mr Ramage and some of the leading members of the "push," the "kernel" included. Some of them came to us to say goodbye this morning – Mr Ramage (a nice kind old gentleman) bid us an affectionate farewell and wished us every "good luck."

Among the first of the passengers that left the "Austral" were five or six "fine" Irish boys and as the tender was steaming away they shouted "Hurrah for old Ireland." The other passengers who were leaving gave three cheers for the "Austral," one for the passengers and one for the captain. Fr Stronge (from All Hallows) is the only priest that got off at Albany. He did not leave the Austral till 12 o'clock. Before leaving he came to say goodbye to Marian, Nora, Mary Tandy and me. We got his blessing and he promised to pray for us. All the goodbyes reminded us vividly of home and all the dear ones and as we watched Fr Stronge leave we could not help crying. Shall we be blamed for doing so? No nature must have its way sometimes and I feel so relieved after a good weep. Some of the priests that went ashore with Fr Stronge told us this evening that his parish priest met him and that he was to be stationed in Albany.

Fr Stronge was very funny. He came to see us often and used to call us "sturks." The steamer "Arcadia" came into port while we were there. It is a fine vessel and is homeward bound. Ah! Yes "homeward" bound and we going further and further away from the homes of our childhood. Nineteen 2nd saloon passengers came on board today – two ladies among the number – the remainder rather a rough looking set of men – Australians I presume. Oh! such lovely lillies [sic] as some of the passengers who were ashore brought back. They told us they were growing wild. We have or rather there are ninty [sic] eight passengers in 2nd saloon now. There is also an increase of passengers in 1st saloon. Among the number is the lucky gentleman who discovered the Coolgardie goldmines. I hear he has an income of £31200 pounds a year.

Sunday 14th October. Was up early this morning. Attended Masses as usual in drawingroom. Went on deck after breakfast. Had a smart walk with Nora, Marian, Mary Tandy and Mrs Adair. It was bitterly cold this morning. Some of the new passengers who are Coolgardie gold miners showed us a nugget of gold as it was found. It weighs about seventeen ounces and they told us it was worth about £70. Mass celebrated by Fr Delaney (Carlow College) in 2nd saloon at a quarter to eleven. After Mass Father O'Farrell read the epistle and Gospel of the day and preached a lovely sermon on the value of an immortal soul. He exhorted all to preserve their soul pure and unspotted so that they might be able at the last day to "render to God the things that are God's" and to the devil nothing but contempt and abhorrence [sic]. Had rosary in 1st saloon

tonight at eight pm. The Joyful Mysteries were for contemplation as the Glorious Mysteries were meditated on last Sunday night. At the commencement of each decade there was an explanation of the Mystery for contemplation and at the end of each ten hail Marys a verse of "Hail Queen of Heaven" was sung. At the conclusion of the service the Litany of Blessed Virgin was chanted by the priests and the purser. Miss Bastian played the organ. We saw a great many albatrosses today. They reminded me of the "Ancient Mariner." I am deeply disappointed that I have not seen even one whale or shark since I came on board.

On Wednesday we expect to reach Adelaide. Mary Tandy and Father Treacy will get off there. The former intends to join the Mercy nuns at Wilcannia. Her cousin Dr Dunne is Bishop of that diocese. My last Sunday on board "Austral"; I feel both glad and sad when I think of it. On Friday we shall be in Melbourne (D.V.) Then shall come the parting with dear M.M. John, Sisters Teresa, Patrick and Vincent also Nora and Marianne. I suppose it will be sad but there is no use of crossing the bridge before I meet it; parting is no novelty to me now but still I am not quite hardened and I know it will be very hard to bid goodbye to those above mentioned especially Sisters Patrick, Teresa and Vincent as they are from Tullow and with me from the first. M.M. John told me today to write to Aunt Benedict from Adelaide. She also told me if someone did not meet me on Friday at Melbourne that I should stay with them till I would be sent for. M.M. John is very kind. The "Austral" shall not leave Melbourne for Sydney until Saturday evening.

Monday 15th October. Feast of St Teresa. Went up to drawingroom at half past six; saw Sister Teresa there looking quite happy. Wished her a happy feast under my breath as there were a couple of priests vesting for Mass. There were eight Masses celebrated this morning – three Masses going on at the same time. I understand that they were all said for Sister Teresa's intentions. We were speaking to M. John, Sisters Patrick, Vincent and Teresa after breakfast. Everyone should come, spend their feasts on board ship as there is quite a fuss made about Sr Teresa. Marianne, Nora, Mary Tandy and I left our wishes and letters with the steward this morning to be given to her at breakfast. Marianne told Sr Teresa in her letter that she was to see that M. John would send us cake and wine today; if not that she (Sr Teresa) was to come to 2nd saloon and we would "stand a good drink." We are now in the Australia Bight but not getting the "bite" I expected as we were told it would be very rough here. It is quite the reverse and I hope it will continue so. Not so cold today as yesterday but still it is not as fine as it would be at home at this time of the year. So much for tropical climates. I assure you when I was getting up this morning I thought of the December and January mornings when I would feel like 'lying on' especially Sunday mornings when I would have to get up for first Mass. A dance on 1st class deck tonight. Some of the 2nd class passengers went to it. We did not.

Mary Tandy, Nora and I had a glorious swing on deck tonight. Marian was not with us as she was in the saloon with a friend. Sisters Teresa and Vincent came to see us to our cabins before dinner today.

Nora and I are in the same cabin. Marian and Mary live next door. Marian was with us for the first week but when we began to feel the heat we asked M.M. John to speak to Mr Dinnis that he might allow one of us to remove to next cabin as Mary Tandy was by herself. He gave the desired permission and then followed the contention to see which should go. To decide the matter we drew lots; the lot fell on Marian and much against her will she took up her abode next door. Nora and I have had an occasional visit from her since especially when coming through the Red Sea. She sleeps on 'our' couch when she stops the night. Our cabins are very small and we have no port holes as they are inside ones. Nora sleeps on the top berth and I exactly under her. We find it very difficult to keep our things tidy the place is so small; all must clear out when I draw my trunk from under my bed as it covers the whole floor from couch to wash stand.

Tuesday 16th October. Today is Marianne's birthday. Wished her a happy one after Mass this morning as she was not up when I was leaving my cabin. M.M. John came to our cabin today and told Marianne to get sweets and wine and she would pay for them. I went to the barber's shop and bought a small bottle of sweets, a package of butterscotch and toffee. We got a bottle of port wine at the bar so we had a regular "spree." I wrote home a long letter this afternoon. Went to Miss Hughe's [sic] cabin after dinner to see her auto harp. It is a lovely little instrument. Mrs Trueman (the old lady that sits at table with us) played some very nice airs on it, among the number "Home Sweet Home." That reminds me that Mary Tandy was playing the same air on the piano one evening and Mrs Trainer (the widow on board whose husband has only been dead ten months) came to her and asked her not to play it as it made her (Mrs Trainer) cry.

Miss Hughes is a [sic] an old maid and thinks that the doctor and some of the nice gentleman on board are gone about her. Mrs Roberts has just now been favouring with "The Kerry Dance." She has a very nice voice. We were on 1st class deck tonight with the nuns. Saw the moon rising. Oh! it was glorious. You would think that it was coming up out of the sea – a real ball of gold. We were sitting on deck and wondered what lovely light was reflecting on the water. We are now passing Kangaroo Island – a beautiful torch was lit for a signal. We asked Father Dwyer (he disowns the "O") why was it called Kangaroo Island and he said because it was the shape of a kangaroo. We could not judge for ourselves as it was too dark to see its shape. Fr Dwyer also told us that there were a quantity of monkeys and cocoa nut [sic] trees to be found there. I think the island is rather large. I put my letters to Aunt Benedict and Mother in the letter box a few minutes ago. I wonder how will they feel at home when they receive my letter. My first letter from Australia cannot arrive long before this one. Said good bye to Miss Hodson who has been so very ill. She is consumptive and the doctor feared that she should die on board. She is very nice and has been studying painting in London. Miss Hodson intends remaining some time in Adelaide with a friend of hers who is a doctor there.

Wednesday 17th October. The first thing I heard this morning was Nora saying to me that we were at Adelaide and telling me to get up. In spite of

being in Adelaide I fell asleep again but Nora did not let me long indulge in it as she called me again and in short time I came to my senses, got up and dressed. It was only minutes past six. Oh! what a glorious morning, all cold had vanished. The sun was shining brightly, a lovely blue sky and scarcely a ripple moved the clear blue waters. A lovely specimen of Australian climate.

As soon as I was dressed I went up to Mass. When I was going into drawingroom Sister Patrick gave me a letter. I put it away without looking at it as two Masses were being celebrated. When I had assisted at two Masses and made my thanksgiving after Holy Communion I wanted to say goodbye to Mary Tandy who was leaving directly and I left the drawingroom. The first thing I did was to look at the address on my letter. I did not recognise the hand writing. It was addressed in care of Father Griffin who is going to the Diocese of Sandhurst. I was not long knowing who was my correspondent as I opened the envelope immediately and oh! what a pleasant surprise to find that enclosed were letters from Aunt Benedict, Brigid and Sr M. Josephine. Words cannot expressed [sic] how happy I felt when I read their very hearty welcome to the "Sunny South." Aunt Benedict's welcome made me feel quite at home in Australia. She wrote that Prior Murray or some of the priests from Echuca will meet me at Melbourne. Is not that grand? Brigid seems delighted that I am going to Echuca. I wonder shall [we] be Siamese twins (M. Cecilia's sobriquet) there the same as in the old day school. M.M. John had a great many letters from the different convents welcoming her back to the "Southern Cross." Mary Tandy left "Austral" before 8am. We said goodbye to her. She seemed rather sorry when going away and promised to write to me. She and I were good friends. Fathers O'Brien and Rafferty went to the Mercy Convent, Adelaide, with her. Father Treacey had gone very early. He wanted to get his luggage passed [sic] the customs without a strict examination. We feared that he would not return but he came back with the priests that were ashore and three priests from Adelaide. The latter were very nice and welcomed us to Australia. We bid Father Treacey [Fr Francis Treacy who studied at Carlow College, 1889-1894; ordained for the Diocese of Wilcannia] goodbye. He was very sorry parting with all especially Fr McAuliffe [Fr Michael McAuliffe who studied at Carlow College, 1888-1894; ordained for the Diocese of Maitland] who is a great chum of his. They were in Carlow together. He endeavoured to keep from crying but failed. Adelaide I mean Port Adelaide is a very pretty place I think. Of course, I could not well judge as we were three miles from shore but I was quite enchanted with what I saw. The surrounding country is beautiful. Far more civilised looking than Albany.

The city of Adelaide is nine miles from the shore and we did not see it. M.M. John would have gone ashore and brought us only it would take nearly all the limited time to go to Adelaide and get back so we would have scarcely any time to visit the different places and would run the risk of being left behind. Miss Lennon told that there were some of the steerage passengers that did not return. I suppose the [sic] forgot all about the "Austral" when they got ashore. I am sure they shall be put to some expense. I daresay their luggage is on this ship – that is if they have any. On the sailing notice it was plainly written that we would sail at noon and we did not do so till one o'clock. The "Oruba" was in port and and [sic] the "Austral" there. She is leaving for

England this evening. I saw the boat from the "Austral" delivering the English mails to the "Oruba." Some of the stewards from the former went to the latter. Nearly all the Coolgardie gold diggers disembarked at Adelaide. About five 2nd saloon passengers that came from England did likewise. Some of the latter came to say goodbye to us. They seemed sorry for leaving. We got five or six new passengers in 2nd saloon – one a great dash of a lady and her little son. The former was the centre of attraction at tea this evening. She was dressed in pink. I do not know whether it was silk or not as I was not near her. She also wore a cream lace fissure and had her beautiful yellow hair in a funny way on the top of her head. She has quite a quantity of it. I wish Pollie was here to copy the latest fashion. It is not usual for the 2nd saloon ladies to dress in so loud a manner. And as a matter of course she was the general topic.

We are having the coast as the Australians say since we left Adelaide (now 6pm). My word (you see I am getting the Australian slang before I land). It is very pretty.

We saw two sharks today while we were at Adelaide. One was very large. Such fabulous stories as are told about the Coolgardie gold diggers. They do not [know] what to do with their money. One of their wives has a dress covered over with sovereigns and has it banked at Melbourne till the races of Melbourne when she intends to wear it (I doubt this story). I am told that some of them have no better use for five pound notes than to put on their bread and eat them. Nothing less than champagne [sic] will do some of them to wash in. Three of them who were 2nd saloon passengers ordered £5 of champagne last night and drank it all between them. They must have been rather funny and light after it all. All I know is that they had a regular row as sequel to the spree.

Nora and I were talking to Father Rafferty for a long time tonight. He is a great favourite of ours and a great Irishman. We were on 1st deck with the nuns for three quarters of an hour. I have only one more night on board the "Austral." Six weeks today since I left home.

Thursday 18th October. We are having it cold again today. Nora was up about five this morning. She rises with the lark. I forgot, perhaps there are none here. I did not arise till half past six. When dressed I went to the drawingroom for Mass. M. John told me it was better go to confession. Perhaps I might not have an opportunity of doing so till the end of next week. I took her advise [sic] and got confession from Fr O'Farrell. I afterwards had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion at one of the Masses. Nora and the nuns had gone to confession before I went up. Fr O'Farrell is disembarking at Melbourne. There are nine priests going to Sydney but only two remaining in that diocese. Marian was brushing her hat today. She said to me it was covered with feathers. She forgot that we had only spring mattresses.

Nora helped me to pack my trunk today. It was so full that she had to sit on it while I locked it. I hope the customs officer will be gentle with my luggage. Had a visit from Sisters Vincent and Patrick today in my cabin. They brought me souvenirs. Well now I have made a mistake. It was Sr Teresa not Sr Patrick. The latter sent a souvenir by the former. M. John told me today that

Brigid [Brigid Gaynor, a relative of Bridie Moore. Brigid's name in religious was Sr Ursula] entered on the 8th September. I was surprised when I heard it. I wonder that she did not mention it in her letter. It is rather rough this evening. We had great work trying to keep on our legs. The fiddles were on the table at tea to keep the the [sic] plates etc from falling off. Sea sickness is now a thing of the past (D.G.) I enjoyed the rolling of the ship very much. Mrs Adair brought shamrocks in pots from Ireland. She has been very careful of them but in spite of all they are all dead. Only one in [that] is not far from being so. She fears that it will never live till she reaches New Zealand. Mrs Adair, her husband and child are leaving the "Austral" at Melbourne. They intend taking the next boat from there to New Zealand. An impromptu concert in 2nd saloon tonight. Mrs Roberts charmed the audience with the "Kerry Dance" and in response to an enthusiastic encore she sang "Little Alabama Coon." Writing of the "Kerry Dance" reminds me that I have not heard "Killarney" since I left home. If Willie Murphy were here it would not be so as he would have all even the most stoic in a 'trance' listening to that dear old song. Nora and I were in 1st saloon with the nuns. After the concert we had a delicious cup of tea and plenty of lollies as I paid a visit to the barber's shop early in the evening. It is expected to be rough till midnight. I think there is no earthly object so sublime as the sea in its severe and naked simplicity. As the eye roams over the unbounded ocean and sees the waves rise and swell a person cannot help conceiving a nobler idea of the majesty of God. Before we retired to our cabin "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by four gentlemen, Scotch I presume, as they seemed to be quite enthusiastic and clasped each others hands as they sung. Mr Corrie was one of the singers. He is a nice gentleman from Scotland and is going to New Zealand via Sydney.

Friday 19th October. Exactly six weeks since we sailed from Tilbury. Was up before five this morning and had a smart walk on deck with Nora before going to the drawingroom. Mass celebrated by Fr O'Farrell as half past five. After Mass, Nora, Marian and I joined the other passengers who were mustered on deck awaiting the doctors inspection. He came on after a short time and counted each one as he passed. The view of Port Melbourne was not very enchanting. The "Austral" stopped at the wharf. About a quarter past seven there were crowds awaiting her arrival. Fr O'Farrell pointed Prior Murray out to me. I went to the saloon immediately and had my breakfast after which I put on my hat, jacket etc in order to be ready if Prior Murray wished me to leave soon. While I was dressing one of Tait's agents came to see after my luggage. He labelled my trunk and one hat case. As I was going to bring the other with me it did not require a label. He was to see the trunk, hat case and box through the customs and then forwarded to Echuca. When dressed I went to first saloon to see the Prior. He gave me a most hearty welcome to Australia. I soon said goodbye to the dear nuns, also Marian and Nora and left the poor old "Austral" accompanied by Prior Murray. We remained sightseeing in Melbourne for three hours. Among some of places which I saw and admired were the Cathedral (St Patrick's) – it is an immense building; a Convent of the Sisters of Mercy; Coles book Arcadia, and never saw such a number of books together as I saw there. The shop is very, very large and the walls and stands are simply lined with books of every description. We also visited cycloama [sic, cyclorama]. There I saw a life size view of Mount Calvary, the road on

which Our Lord walked to His death; the crowd of people standing around the Mount; and Jesus and the thieves dying – I never saw anything artificial so real in my life. I thought the figures were human and could well fancy myself on Mount Calvary. We were so to speak standing on a large rock and all around were the crowds. Above our heads was the dark sky. No I cannot describe it. I was nearly stupified [sic]. I could scarcely believe it was not reality.

We left Melbourne at 12 o'clock. A lady friend (Mrs Kenny) of Prior Murray's was at the station to see us off. She gave me a beautiful bouquet of flowers, a bag of fruit and a box of lollies. We reached Bendigo at half past four. Dr Crane's [Martin Crane, Bishop of Sandhurst] carriage was waiting for us. His Lordship wished us to stay in Bendigo for a few hours. We had about five minutes driving to the palace. When we arrived there we were shown into the Bishop's sittingroom. He was sitting quite still, the room was partially darkened. He spoke very kindly to me and inquired about my voyage etc. After conversing a short time with his Lordship I had dinner with Prior Murray. Fr Crane took me after dinner to a Mrs Hayes where I had tea and remained some time. Miss Hayes and a lady friend returned with me to the palace and remained there till I left and Fr Crane (Dr Crane's brother) came in the carriage to the station with us. Before leaving the palace I got the Bishop's blessing. We left Bendigo at nine o'clock. I was very tired; I felt inclined to sleep. I thought we would never arrive at Echuca. Prior Murray was exceedingly kind – not a bit stiff and after a few minutes I felt as if he were an old acquaintance. It must have been past eleven by [the] time we got to Echuca station. I forgot to mention that Prior O'Hanlon (Prior of Rochester) was at Rochester station. He welcomed me to Australia. We were about ten minutes driving from Echuca station to the convent. When arrived there all the professed nuns and Bridie were waiting to receive us. There was no need of knocking at the door as it was opening before we could get to it. Aunt Benedict was the first to welcome me, then followed Bridie and the other nuns. I was marched into the parlour. The Prior did not wish to come as it was so late but he was made do so. He did not remain long. When he had gone I was seated at a table covered with good things to which I was well helped. Bridie, Aunt Benedict and all the nuns inquired for all friends. Of course, Aunt Benedict and Bridie had hosts of questions. Special inquiries for M. Thomas and grandmother by the other nuns.

My diary now comes to a close. I will ask you kind reader to excuse innumerable mistakes writing etc as it was often not a very easy task to scribble and I sometimes sat on the floor of my cabin writing.

Love and embraces to you my dearest Father, Mother, brothers and sisters and all dear friends.

Pray always for
Yours lovingly
Bridie Moore
E de M