

# Exploring the Adventurous Life of Bishop John Bede Polding at Sea



The adventurous life of Bishop John Bede Polding, a prominent figure in Australian history, was marked by his relentless commitment to spreading the Catholic faith across the vast lands of Australia. But little is known about his fascinating journey at sea, which played a pivotal role in shaping his faith and determination.

## **The Early Life of Bishop John Bede Polding**

Born on the 18th of November, 1794, in Liverpool, England, Polding experienced a spiritual calling at a young age. Ordained as a priest in 1821, he later became the first bishop of Australia after being appointed by Pope Gregory XVI in 1834. However, it was during his remarkable sea voyages that Polding encountered transformative experiences that molded his character and strengthened his faith.



## At Sea with Bishop John Bede Polding: The Journals of Lewis Harding, 1835 (Liverpool to Sydney) and 1846 (Sydney to London)

by Teresa Mills (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 426 pages



### Embracing the Call of the Oceans

Polding's fascination with the vastness of the ocean began when he embarked on his first voyage to Sydney, Australia in 1834. As he sailed the rough waters of the Pacific, he faced numerous challenges and uncertainties, which ultimately propelled him to anchor his beliefs even further.

The long days and nights spent onboard allowed Polding ample time for introspection and contemplation. Amidst the constant sound of crashing waves, he found solace and developed a profound connection to the divine. These

moments of solitude at sea would eventually become central to his religious teachings.

## **The Sea as a Symbol of Faith**

For Polding, the vast expanse of water served as a powerful metaphor for faith and openness. Just as the ocean stretches beyond human comprehension, so should one's faith in God. Polding would often compare navigating through the sea's unpredictable currents to navigating through the uncertainties of life. His teachings emphasized the importance of unwavering faith and trust in God's divine plan.

## **Challenges and Trials at Sea**

During his voyages, Polding encountered treacherous storms and faced dangerous situations that tested his faith and resilience. However, his unwavering commitment to his mission saw him through these hardships. His ability to maintain calmness in the face of adversity earned him the respect of those onboard and solidified his reputation as a man of unwavering faith.

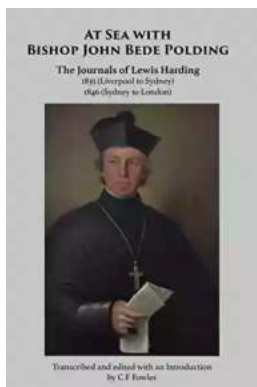
## **Legacy and Influence**

Throughout his life, Polding's experiences at sea continued to shape his identity as a spiritual leader, and he would later share these insights with his congregation. His influential teachings inspired many to embrace the Catholic faith and strengthen their belief systems.

Polding's dedication to his mission led to the establishment of numerous Catholic schools and churches across Australia, making education and religion accessible to people from all walks of life. His legacy lives on, as these institutions continue to shape the spiritual and educational landscape of the nation.

The voyages of Bishop John Bede Polding at sea were not merely a means of transportation but served as transformative experiences that fortified his faith and shaped his teachings. His remarkable journey through the vast oceans of Australia allowed for introspection, resilience, and spiritual growth.

Today, we can honor the enduring legacy of Bishop John Bede Polding by acknowledging the profound impact of his sea voyages on his journey as a spiritual leader. Let his story serve as a reminder of the transformative power that can be found at sea and the valuable lessons we can derive from embracing the unknown.



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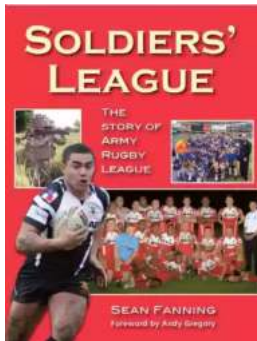
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The two shipboard journals recorded by Lewis Harding, Bede Poldings fellow passenger in 1835 and 1846, and here published for the first time, present endearing glimpses of Australia were via the Cape of Good Hope. In addition, he sailed several times to ports within his Province to Newcastle, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Albany and Perth. When in Europe he regularly crisscrossed

the Irish Sea and the English Channel. In his old age, in October 1869, he undertook a voyage intending to reach Europe in time for the opening of the Vatican Council at Rome in December. The steamer sailed via Melbourne and Albany into the Indian Ocean, thence into the Red Sea, heading to the Suez Canal, which was due to open in November. However, the Archbishop, sick and exhausted, turned back after reaching Aden, arriving in Sydney on Christmas Eve 1869.



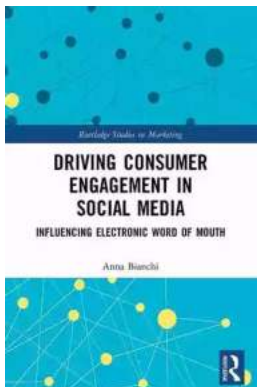
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