

## From the Diary of Bishop John Francis Norton – 1925

### Inscription....

*Diary kept for my dearest Mother  
on the P. & O Steamer "Mongolia"  
by John F. Norton  
With the Australian National  
Pilgrimage to Rome & Lourdes 1925.*

**1<sup>st</sup> May**

We are out of sight of all land, though before night we could see the flashes from the light house on Mini Koi, a small island about midway between the Lacadive and Maldive group. There have been vessels too, in sight, some passing Eastward and others we overtook. It will not be so monotonous, as when we were on the other side of Ceylon. Best of all we have a head wind, and the humidity must soon disappear. This is to the Bishop's advantage, and I cannot but think that the violent downpour that took place on the night of 28<sup>th</sup> which was so intense that the ship's fog horn had to be blown continually for more than an hour had much to do with the Bishop's seizure. He is still very bad, and it seems it will be only a miracle that will bring him alive to Europe. All the Masses of the priests, all the prayers of the Pilgrims are devoted to this end. If we can only get him to Lourdes, then Our Lady can do the rest.

