

## helping young people to help others

This fund has been established in memory of Alistair Charles Roberts (1983-2001) in order to support, financially, those wishing to participate as Brancardiers or Handmaidens in an organised pilgrimage to Lourdes or as Stagiairies under the jurisdiction of the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes. Applicants must be in real need of such financial assistance and possess a genuine desire to contribute to the welfare of other pilgrims and to share the spiritual life of both the sick and helpers during their time in Lourdes.

Alistair showed such qualities while a young member of the Ampleforth Pilgrimage in 2000 and 2001. He always spoke with enthusiasm about his time in Lourdes and looked forward to his return. His family thought it appropriate that, following his untimely and tragic death in a car accident in December 2001, a memorial fund should be organised to help provide for others that which had given Alistair so much joy. The commitment of his family has evoked a widespread and generous response from many who, either knew Alistair himself, or have been deeply touched by the circumstances of his death and the aims of this memorial fund.

Since Alistair was an old boy of Ampleforth College and had taken part in the Ampleforth Pilgrimage during his final two years in the school, it is the wish of his family that there will always be a close link between the use of the fund each year and the Ampleforth Pilgrimage. While this does not exclude the possibility of support for helpers attached to other organisations, it is essential that the use of the fund never 'loses touch with its roots'.

From the very early days of the Christian Church, the sick, the elderly, the handicapped, the broken, the dying, have been given special place in its prayer and its ministry. They teach us, that weakness and vulnerability is a creative part of human life and that suffering can be embraced with no loss of dignity. During his visit to England in May 1982 and while presiding over the anointing of the sick in Southwark Cathedral, Pope John Paul II urged all, who enjoyed good health, to treasure and recognise with gratitude the debt we owe to the sick. 'We begin,' he said, 'by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realising that they have enriched us.' While at Ampleforth, Alistair was a member of a boarding House under the patronage of St Hugh of Lincoln, a 12th century monk and Archbishop with the humility to recognise the closeness of Christ to the sick and his debt to them. Hugh visited the sick of his diocese daily and tended to their medical and spiritual needs with unstinting dedication. When one of his admirers noticed that Hugh would often embrace and kiss the most sickly in his care, he observed with a note of disappointment that when St Martin of Tours kissed the sick they were cured. 'Why do you not do the same?' St Hugh replied, 'When Martin kisses the sick he heals their body, when I kiss the sick, they heal my soul.'

It is not surprising, therefore, that the care of the sick in Lourdes is for many, the most powerful and memorable experience of their pilgrimage. To the younger members of the pilgrimage, in particular, the faith of the infirm who live with so much pain, and their appreciation of the care extended to them can make a lasting impact. It is an aim of the Alistair Roberts Memorial Fund to bring this experience to the young at an impressionable time in their lives when they will become aware of the potential value of Lourdes not just to the sick but to themselves. While not excluding support of others in financial need, it has always been the wish of Alistair's family that the young should be the main beneficiaries of this fund.

The Trustees.

## check list

- Completed the form, detailing your contact details, the funding section, why you want to go to Lourdes and sign the declaration.
- Enclosed two supporting references. References are essential and should be presented on headed paper.
- Kept a copy of your application.
- Please retain this half of the form for your records and post the other half to:

**Alex Roberts**

**Unit E1AU, The Ringway**

**Bounds Green Industrial Estate**

**Bounds Green Road London N11 2UL**

**T: 020 8361 0574 M: 07765 891 166**

**Email: [mail@armf.org.uk](mailto:mail@armf.org.uk) or [alex@alexroberts.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alex@alexroberts.fsnet.co.uk)**

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter explaining you have been short-listed and will be contacted shortly. If your application is unsuccessful, we will give reason for this.

**Example Dates:** HCPT Easter Pilgrimage: **11th - 16th April 2009**

Newham Group, Brentwood Diocese Easter Pilgrimage: **Easter 2009**

Ampleforth Lourdes Pilgrimage: **10th - 17th July 2009**

Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage: **25th July - 1st August 2009**

For further background please visit [www.armf.org.uk](http://www.armf.org.uk)

## Useful notes regarding this application

- If you own a non-EU passport and require a VISA to travel to Lourdes, please apply for your correct, additional travel documents ASAP.
- **Ampleforth Pilgrimage Travel Insurance:** Travelling independently to Lourdes is not encouraged with this application. However, should this be unavoidable i.e. you are travelling to Lourdes from outside the UK, then you need to arrange your own travel insurance and provide evidence of this. If opting for 'Partial funding' you should state clearly to ALP and ARMF whether you wish to arrange your own travel insurance and provide evidence of this, or select FOALS travel insurance on the ALP application form. If booking FOALS travel insurance online at [www.ampleforthlourde.co.uk](http://www.ampleforthlourde.co.uk) you will save a further £10.00.  
Fully funded applicants from ARMF will be covered by FOALS travel insurance.

**Only in exceptional circumstances will full funding be given.**

**In addition, only in outstanding conditions will an applicant be considered after the closing date for applications.**

**All information disclosed in this application form is CONFIDENTIAL**

**DEADLINE FOR SUMMER APPLICATIONS - 10TH APRIL 2009**

# application form



Name: .....

Age: ..... Gender: ..... Telephone No: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

**Religious background** (while applicants could be from any religious background, a willingness to participate in the Catholic spiritual life of Lourdes and to benefit from it are essential):

**Do you have any disabilities?** Applicants with physical disabilities are welcome to apply, but it must be noted that applicants are participating as 'helpers' and therefore, must not be physically dependent on others.

ARMF is committed to equality of opportunity.

**This application should be accompanied by two supporting references, which include some indication of character and verification of financial situation. References are essential and should be presented on headed paper.** The following are possible 'referee types': Head Teacher, Parish Priest, someone from a Charitable Organisation for whom you have worked e.g. Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator, Voluntary Services Co-ordinator.

**Which pilgrimage are you hoping to join with ARMF's support? Please provide the name and contact details of the person that has introduced you to, and is involved with, this pilgrimage.** The following are examples: Ampleforth, Westminster, Hallam Diocese, Brentwood Diocese, HCPT, University groups. Contact: Mr. A Helper Tel: x **Please remember to apply directly to the pilgrimage you are hoping to join, in addition to submitting an application to ARMF for funding.**

**What is the cost of your pilgrimage? £** .....

**How much are you able to contribute? £** .....

**How much are you asking ARMF for? £** .....

Please consider the following example breakdown: Full Ampleforth package - accommodation costs (full board, sharing), flights and FOALS travel insurance: £470.00\* (£460 if booking online at [www.ampleforthlourdes.co.uk](http://www.ampleforthlourdes.co.uk)).

Reduced Ampleforth package - as above but a reduction of £140 is available for not including the ALP flight: £330.00\* (£320 if booking online at [www.ampleforthlourdes.co.uk](http://www.ampleforthlourdes.co.uk)).

\* Costs based on last year's figures, Ampleforth yet to confirm 2009 exact fees.

**If additional journey expenses, to and from the airport is a necessity, or further travel insurance costs are required, please include and indicate costs: £** .....

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE REQUESTING FROM ARMF: £** ..... (including other journey outgoings).

All other expenses (by either your own fundraising or earnings) would be met by yourself. £100 is suggested as a guideline.

**Please state your reasons for wishing to go to Lourdes.** How will this support assist your hopes and aims? Why do you want to participate on the pilgrimage etc.

**Declaration**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, all the information in this application is true.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please make sure you keep a copy of this application for your records.**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS - 10TH APRIL 2009**