

Thought for the Day – Monday 16th August 2021

By Revd John Marshall

The widow of Zarephath

Jesus remembers this story.

Elijah has predicted a drought, he is sent to Zarephath in Sidon and meets a widow, gathering sticks. He asks for a drink and a little bread. She is in desperate circumstances; she had been planning a last meal for her and her son.

Elijah suggests she bakes him a cake using flour and oil from her cruse; and cook something for herself and her son after.

God promises that the flour and oil will not run out until the day when the rain comes.

It comes to pass; and so the family could eat. And Elijah stays with them.

But the son becomes ill – there is no breath in him. His mother is distraught and blames Elijah.

He takes the son and prays fervently for him. The son recovers and is restored to his mother.

You can read the story in 1Kings 17.8 to the end.

God is “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows.” Psalm 68.5

The symbol of the cruse of oil has been given to Cruse- the bereavement charity.

Let us remember those who are bereaved; and show the kindness of God.