Reflection for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Throughout this week the first of the scripture readings at Mass have been taken from the prophet Hosea, who lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. They contain some of the most beautiful passages from the Hebrew Scriptures. The Prophet Hosea was a younger contemporary of the prophet Amos, and like him preached in the northern kingdom of Israel. In order to bring the message of divine love to God's unfaithful people, Hosea took the bold step of preaching the Lord as the husband of Israel. He condemned the sins of God's chosen people and calls them to repent, to purify their hearts and to seek the Lord. He speaks of God's tender love for His people:

"When Israel was a child I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt...I myself taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in my arms...I was the one looking after them. I led them with reins of kindness with leading strings of love. "

Let us always keep in mind the tender love that our Father n Heaven has for us, His children. Let us continue to reflect such love in our daily lives.