

## **POOH BEAR**

As I spent time with Rachael and Geoffrey preparing for their marriage, I discovered they had a very close friend called Pooh. Some of you might know the story how pooh bear came to be a friend and taught them a thing or two about communication one birthday. Pooh Bear is a hero of a popular children's story book by A.A. Milne. Sadly, although Geoffrey may not have realised this, he is a bear of little brain. A story about Pooh bear is most appropriate today in our celebrations.

Let me set the scene for you Pooh Bear - (*here*)- is visiting his great friend Rabbit and over indulges in the hospitality. When he goes to leave, to his horror he discovers that he can no longer fit out rabbit's doorway. He is stuck. Then enters good friend Christopher Robin. A young boy called upon frequently to get Pooh bear out of scrapes. Well after quite a lot of scheming they manage to pull Pooh out by his paws, with the help of numerous other friends. Poor old Pooh goes off without his honey pot determined not to be stuck in that predicament again.

In our bible reading today the story centres on a Wedding feast in which the hosts find themselves in a predicament - not unlike Pooh, stuck in the Rabbits door hole. They have run out of wine and are in danger of appearing as ungracious hosts. Jesus, alerted by Mary his mother, recognises their difficulty and gives clear instructions to the servants which results in the miracle of water changing into wine.

Living in this wine growing region of Marlborough most of us would appreciate the effort which goes into making wine out of grapes - so Jesus' accomplishment is no mean feat. Jesus as the Son of God is able to achieve this without difficulty and even provide a gold medal wine in the process.

In the same way as pooh bear - our bear of very little brain who was fortunate to have a good friend in Christopher Robin to pull him out of scrapes. We too are fortunate to be able to have Jesus as our friend. This same man Jesus, the Son of God who performed the miracle of producing Gold medal wine at the wedding at Cana can also guide and help you today in NZ, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and beyond, if we choose to trust him.

Rachael and Geoffrey the greatest gift I can give to you as we celebrate your love for each other today is to give you back your Pooh Bear to remind you in the years that are ahead of you that although Pooh Bear - will get old and tired with time, a relationship with Jesus Christ is ongoing and living, able to enrich each of you personally and also your married life if you choose to call upon his name. Jesus will be a true friend, there to pull you out of a tight spot as well as enjoy the honey of your relationship.