



If someone was to ask you what is the worst job in the world I wonder what you would say...High up on my list would have to be the job of the Yellow Uniformed Council drain cleaners.

At this time of year but particularly when it is election year (presidential and important state government elections) a team of around 10 men work their way up my street cleaning out the drains. These men literally go down the drainage holes in their yellow t-shirts and trousers with a pair of short plastic wellies and gloves for protection. They physically with a bucket clean out the "muck" that has blocked up our sewage/water drains!!

I have full respect for these guys so when they have their siesta lying in the shade on cardboard boxes they may look like they are not working but believe me they have been!! Two full skips of 'muck' was removed from only half of my street!

(Does this mean we will have no flooding this year when the rains come? - probably not as it never seems to work! The river where the water etc. drains into being clogged with plastic and rubbish may have something to do with this!)

This month, sorting out a new toilet for the Reading Room was one of my tasks. Needless to say, I now know all the jargon with regards to what to look for in buying a toilet! The previous toilet had reached the end of its life. When it was taken out, we discovered that a plastic cup in the drainage pipe was not helping the removal of any waste!! Hopefully you can imagine the scene of our old toilet after 35 children have used it on a Saturday morning! The volunteers had fun with buckets to try to flush the water away - (obviously not going to work well with a leaky toilet and also a plastic cup in the pipes! That is when we had access to water as we don't have water every day.) Rosa proudly pressed the flush button on the new toilet to show me how the flush was definitely working now!

The nursing home visit was very encouraging and both the elderly folk and the children really enjoyed their time sharing about the 5 Solas. The children helped in getting the elderly folk to place their hand on a piece of paper to be able to draw round it and then the children wrote Faith, Grace, Christ, Scriptures and Glory on the fingers.

Some of the children are not great at writing but they were very determined to write the solas on the paper hands, needless to say the elderly folks kept the paper hand given to them by the children like a 'prized possession.'



The smiles on their faces when they see the children using the puppets can't be described in words. As I am writing this, we are preparing for other Easter events in both Peixinhos and Beberibe this weekend (the last in March). So, it is really busy. Yesterday late afternoon with temperatures of 30+ the team of volunteers from Beberibe managed to deliver over 300 invites for the street evangelism event on Friday. When we had finished delivering all the invites involving going up the 3 flights of stairs for each of the 40 blocks, one of our 70 yr old volunteers gave thanks to God in prayer for giving her the strength to manage the flights of stairs in all the blocks that she was assigned to. Needless to say, we were all 'dripping' for our short time of prayer afterwards in the shade! At 5:30 in the evening the temperature was still 30+.

I will be on home assignment over the summer and available for deputation between mid-July and mid-September 2026. Bookings can be made through the Mission Department at mission@presbyterianireland.org.

Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the opportunities in both Peixinhos and Beberibe to share the Good News of Jesus with others in the communities.
- Give thanks for our new toilet in the Reading Room in Peixinhos.
- Pray for training sessions planned for the month of April particularly those in Beberibe as we organize volunteer forms and introduce simple rules/discipline procedures within the junior Sunday school classes and explaining these rules both to parents and children.
- Continue to pray for the 20 folks coming to the Coffee with God Bible Study and the Reading in the Park activities.