

God Who Travels On The 219 Bus

I was on the 219 bus the other day feeling rather irritated because it was crowded, noisy and smelly and generally rather unpleasant. But then I found myself reflecting on the wonderful diversity of people and thinking about some of the struggles they must face and this prayer kind of wrote itself. It quotes the refrain from the Joan Osborne song, One of Us.

“What if God was one of us
Just a stranger on a bus
Trying to find a way home”?

We often think of God
As distant and removed from us
Not one of us
But the whole point of Jesus living on earth
Was to show that God is one of us!

“What is God was one of us
Just a stranger on a bus
Trying to find a way home”?

God who travels on the 219 bus
We pray for all those strangers
who travel with us

The migrant workers
Travelling in for the early shift

The unshaved man smelling of alcohol
And lacking in soap

The giggly teenagers filling the upper deck
Or hiding at the back hoping no one will notice

The woman who wonders what going home will bring
And what mood he’ll be in tonight

The bus driver who tries to be cheerful
As the traffic system has changed yet again

The African woman off to her college course
With her wide-eyed toddler in an overloaded buggy

The smartly dressed council worker
Reading the latest city wide strategy

The older women off to town for a day’s shopping
Thinking of bargains to be had and a nice cup of tea

The newly arrived asylum seeker
Looking nervously out of the window not sure when to get off

The ticket inspector asking people to leave the bus
Secretly sympathetic knowing they haven't the money to pay

The woman with her children asked to leave the bus
Who will spend the rest of the day walking to the next appointment

The college students hard hats in hand
Having a secret joke with their mates

"What if God was one of us
Just a stranger on a bus
Trying to find a way home"?

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