

Title establishes the poem's religious theme: Good Friday is the day Christians believe Christ was crucified.

'Good Friday'

Mundane details in first three lines: time, weather, place. Add to realism.

Poem is in present tense: helping sense of immediacy and realism.

Three o'clock* The bus lurches

round into the sun. 'D's this go -'

he flops beside me - 'right along Bath Street?

word choice: communicates the man's drunkenness.

- Oh tha's, tha's all right, see I've

got to get some Easter eggs for the kiddies.

I've had a wee drink, ye understand -

ye'll maybe think it's a - funny day

to be celebrating - well, no, but ye see

I wasny working, and I like to celebrate

when I'm no working - I don't say it's right

I'm no saying it's right, ye understand - ye understand?

But anyway tha's the way I look at it -

I'm no boring you, eh? - ye see today,

take today, I don't know what today's in aid of,

whether Christ was - crucified or was he -

The working man is aware of the day and feels guilty for be drinking.

The man does not condone his own behaviour.

Punctuation: could show the man is rambling and jumping to different ideas; could show where the narrator would speak.

see (x4)
understand (x3)
say/saying (x2)
mean (x2)

word choice and repetition:

The working man is desperate to be understood.

* This is a subtle Biblical reference: Christ died at 3 in the afternoon.

** The sun shone after he died.

16 rose fae the dead like, see what I mean?^{x4} ^{x1}

17 You're an educatit man, you can tell me –

18 - Aye, well. There ye are. It's been seen

19 time and again, the working man

20 has nae education, he jist canny – jist

21 hasny got it, know what I mean,^{x2}

22 he's jist bliddy ignorant – Christ aye,

23 bliddy ignorant. Well – ' The bus brakes violently,

24 he lunges for the stair, swings down – off,

The working man is very class-conscious. He has identified the narrator as of a different background and assumed a specific dynamic.

For the working man, his class background is a source of shame, or at least a sense of inferiority.

repetition: reinforces the working man's sense of certainty in his argument and conclusion.

25 into the sun for his Easter eggs,

26 on very

nearly

steady

the layout of the last line is broken up. This gives the reader a visual sense of the stair – of the man's exit – and legs.

Note: The narrator speaks very little – most of the poem is the working man's monologue. The verbs the narrator uses – 'lurdes', 'stops', 'brakes', 'lunges', and 'swings' are all active and add to the poem's vivid reality.