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Lord Runcie: Speaking his mind



Lord Runcie was never afraid to speak his mind, and as a result often found himself at the centre of political controversy.

Here are some of the things he said:

"I hope I can persuade the Church to loosen its stays a bit, and perhaps rock the boat a little" - **in 1980, just before his enthronement.**

"The Christian voice must be loud and clear on the great political issues of the time - race relations, unemployment, disarmament and the proper distribution of the world's resources" - **in 1981.**

"In our prayers we shall quite rightly remember those who are bereaved in our own country and the relations of the young Argentinean soldiers who were killed" - **in 1982 at the Falklands memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral.**

"A union of duty with delight" - **in 1983, describing his marriage.**

"An arranged marriage" - **in 1996 in a biography, his description of the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Princess Diana.**

“
An arranged marriage
”
On the Prince and Princess of Wales

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"I have done my best to die before this book is published" - **in 1996, realising the uproar this biography would cause.**

"How long can we wait for jam tomorrow?" - **in 1984, on the plight of the poor and unemployed.**

"I am strong on forgiveness, tolerance. I am clear. Clear in my faith in Christ Jesus. And I believe in authority - the authority of love" - **in 1987, after criticism of him in Crockford's Clerical Directory.**

“
I've always been conscious that they might stab me in the back because I wasn't one of them
”
On homosexual priests

"The Church has come through a period when so many questions were deeply divisive - ordination of women, remarriage of divorcees, homosexuality, issues of peace and war. There have been no resignations, despite deeply held and differing convictions. There's been a readiness to recognise goodness and even sanctity from those with whom you disagree" - **in 1990, shortly before his retirement.**

"I don't mind facing opposition, but what has hurt me has been the grubbing around. Trying to find ways of damaging one's family life" - **in 1991.**

"I've always been conscious that they might stab me in the back because I wasn't one of them" - **in 1996, quoted in a biography when discussing and homosexual priests.**

"I am getting out at the next station" - **in 1997, when a fellow-passenger on the London Underground invited him to "save" a busker.**

"About so many areas of life I am not sure what I believe in really. That is what made me a reluctant archbishop" - **in 1999.**

“
People who have not got a sense of humour shouldn't ever be put in charge
”

"I do this out of a sense of moral responsibility" **In 1999**
- **in 1999, expressing his support for Liverpool FC.**

"People who have not got a sense of humour shouldn't ever be put in charge" - **in 1999.**

"I am dying cheerfully" - **in April, 2000.**

"Life is so much more enjoyable if you don't go on about your illnesses" - **in April 2000, when he was suffering from prostate cancer.**

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