

N.B. Embargo : 21 May 1998 at 1 p.m.

**SERVICE OF PRAYER IN BELFAST CATHEDRAL
ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 1998**

**EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS BY
THE MOST REVEREND DR ROBIN EAMES
ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH**

“Christians are united when they pray. They are united in their privileged fellowship with the God and Father of us all. That unity is expressed and felt in many ways. As we seek God’s guidance we do so as those who not only have the privilege of prayer, but as those who are in communion with a God of love, understanding, compassion and forgiveness.

Today as we pray we do so as individuals who tomorrow will have the privilege of recording our opinion on questions of immense importance to this community. Today we pray as individuals for the guidance of Almighty God on how we should make our individual choice. As Christians we seek God’s guidance. But as Christians we look into our conscience and we listen to God as we prepare to vote.

Irrespective of the decisions we make tomorrow we pray for our country and all its people. We pray for those who carry great burdens of pain in their hearts and in their bodies because of violence. We pray for those whose memories of the past will continue to haunt them for years. We pray for all political leaders. We pray above all for ourselves that we may be conscious of the presence and prompting of God as this community faces days of choice, days of decisions and days when we all yearn for the healing of our wounds."

Those entering booths come from many
directions - hurt
looking to future
uncertain.

all have equal right to their views: