



EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025

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PRIDE 2025 @ CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral Welcomes American Bishop at Annual Pride Service



Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's premier Cathedral in the Church of Ireland and the Anglican Communion, welcomes a special guest for the annual Pride Service, taking place Friday, 13 June 2025, at 6:30 p.m. The Rt Rev Dr Bonnie A Perry, Bishop of Michigan in The Episcopal Church in the United States, arrives in June to preside at the annual service. A reception and celebration will immediately follow, honoring charitable partner *BelongTo Youth Services*, the national organization supporting LGBTQ+ young people in Ireland. Bishop Perry will also lead a workshop at Christ Church Cathedral Saturday, 14 June, at 1:30 p.m., and will preach at the Cathedral's Trinity Sunday worship service, Sunday, 15 June. Details on all events can be found at bit.ly/christchurchpride.

The annual Pride Service was first celebrated in 2021 in the Cathedral and continues to be organised by *Changing Attitude Ireland (CAI)*. CAI is a church-based organisation founded to effect change in attitudes both within and without the church towards the LGBTQ+ community.

This year's special guest joins other luminaries that have served as previous celebrants and preachers. In 2024, Dr Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland, preached at the service. She was also welcomed as the new patron of CAI.

Bishop Perry is excited to visit Dublin to share the good news of her ministry. "I'm delighted to be part of the Pride celebration and conversation at Christ Church Cathedral," she says. "I'm very much looking forward to our time together, getting to know one another and having an opportunity to learn from each other. To be a part of Christ Church Cathedral's storied 1000 year history as a guest preacher is an honor."

Bishop Perry is XI bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan in the United States. Following her consecration in February 2020, she made history as the first woman and openly lesbian bishop in Michigan. Her position oversees a diverse diocese of 78 worshipping communities and more than 14,000 baptized members. The diocese encompasses the Detroit metropolitan area and adjacent regions that stretch as far west as Lansing, Jackson, and Hillsdale.

Bishop Perry serves with a passion for congregational vitality, believing that all communities of faith should be relevant and engaged with their neighborhoods. She expanded the diocese's race relations work and launched the Spirituality and Race Mission, which focuses on exploring issues of racial equity within the context of spiritual redemption. Recognized as a leader in the movement toward sensible and safe gun culture, Perry was elected a co-convenor of Bishops United Against Gun Violence and co-founded End Gun Violence Michigan.

Bishop Perry's expression of ministry also gives focus for equality in voting rights and LGBTQ+ full inclusion worldwide. In November 2023, she was appointed to serve on Michigan's first-ever statewide LGBTQ+ Commission by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Bishop Perry resides in Detroit with her spouse, The Rev Dr M Susan Harlow, a pastor in the United Church of Christ.

For more information on the 2025 Pride Service and all other related events at Christ Church Cathedral, please visit <https://bit.ly/christchurchpride>.

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MORE ABOUT THE RT REV DR BONNIE A PERRY



The Rt Rev Dr Bonnie A Perry is the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan (EDOMI). [She was consecrated as bishop on February 8, 2020.](#) Her position oversees a diverse diocese of 76 worshipping communities and more than 14,000 baptized members. The diocese encompasses the Detroit metropolitan area and adjacent regions that stretch as far west as Lansing, Jackson, and Hillsdale, Michigan. Prior to her election as bishop, Perry spent 27 years as rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Chicago, one of the largest and most active congregations in the Diocese of Chicago and The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Perry serves with a passion for congregational vitality within the diocese, believing that all communities of faith should be relevant and engaged with their neighborhoods.

"You don't have a thriving community of faith if you're not involved in the issues of the day," Bishop Perry says.

Recognized as a leader in the movement toward sensible and safe gun culture, [Perry was elected a co-convenor of Bishops United Against Gun Violence.](#) She spearheaded statewide responses to gun violence in Michigan that resulted in several new laws to improve gun safety and add historic protection for domestic violence survivors. Perry is working to bridge divides in race and the secular world by launching a Spirituality and Race initiative throughout the diocese that includes education and conversation surrounding racial justice, reparations, and reconciliation.

In addition, her expression of ministry also gives focus for equality in voting rights and LGBTQ+ full inclusion worldwide. In November 2023, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Perry as one of 13 commissioners on Michigan's first-ever statewide [LGBTQ+ Commission.](#)

Bonnie Anne Perry was born in San Diego, California. As the daughter of a career Marine officer, she has lived in Hawaii, Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois. She earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from the College of the Holy Cross, a Jesuit college in Worcester, Massachusetts. After graduation, she served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in West Oakland and Skid Row, Los Angeles.

Feeling called to ordained ministry and wrestling with being a Roman Catholic woman, she followed her call to ministry by matriculating at Union Theological Seminary in New York City where she met her spouse, Susan Harlow. In her final year in seminary, Perry was received into The Episcopal Church. In addition to her Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, Perry also holds a Doctor of Ministry (specializing in Congregational Development) from Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. In 2023 she received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Bexley Hall Seabury Western Seminary Federation in Chicago, IL.

Following her ordination as deacon and then as priest in 1990 in the Diocese of Newark, Perry served three churches in New Jersey: Christ Church, Hackensack, Christ Church, Ridgewood, and St. Peter's Clifton. In 1992, she moved to Chicago to follow her spouse, who had accepted a seminary faculty position. Perry served as the Priest-in-Charge and then Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Chicago. It was a very small, demoralized church when she began her tenure and 27 years later it was one of the largest in the diocese, with an average age of 36, and robust outreach ministries working to alleviate hunger. All Saints' is recognized as the most dynamic congregation in the Diocese of Chicago.

In 2006 Perry co-founded and became a co-convenor of the [Chicago Consultation](#), a gathering of Anglican theologians, clergy, community leaders and activists to work for full inclusion in The Episcopal Church for all people, at all levels of leadership and access to all of God's sacraments. The Chicago Consultation hosted the first formal conversations about sexuality in the Anglican Communion in the continent of Africa. Gatherings with 40 people from 16 different countries in African and visitors from the US, Canada and England took place in Durban, South Africa in 2011, Limuru, Kenya in 2013 and Cape Coast, Ghana, 2015.

Bishop Perry is also an internationally recognized sea kayak coach and guide, holding top coaching and guiding credentials in both the British Canoe Union (BCU) and the American Canoe Association (ACA). Perry coaches and guides regularly around the world, Baja, Mexico, the Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands, the west coast of Scotland, the Inner and Outer Hebrides, as well as New Zealand and Canada.

Perry resides in Detroit with her wife, The Rev. Dr. M. Susan Harlow, a United Church of Christ pastor. They have two Australian Shepherds, Tali, and the newest arrival, Jasper.

MORE ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral is a cathedral of the Church of Ireland in the Anglican Communion. The earliest manuscript dates Christ Church Cathedral to its present location around 1030. Today, the Cathedral continues to practice the ancient Augustinian practices of welcome, worship, and witness. Learn more about the Cathedral at www.christchurchcathedral.ie.

MORE ABOUT CHANGING ATTITUDE IRELAND (CAI)

Changing Attitude Ireland exists to promote love, understanding, and justice for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly within the Church of Ireland. We aim to create an inclusive and affirming environment within the church family where LGBTQIA+ individuals and couples can express their faith and be fully accepted, loved and valued, participating without restriction in all aspects of the Church's life.

We seek to engage with clergy, congregations, and church leaders, encouraging open dialogue, empathy, and a deep understanding of the diverse experiences and needs of LGBTQIA+ people. We are inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, who reached out to the marginalised of his society, and now challenges us to do likewise in our own time and culture, and so express the fullness of God's acceptance and love. Learn more at www.changingattitudeireland.com.

'Open hearts for an open Church'