

ANN WIDDECOMBE DEATH – A DOUBLE TRAGEDY?

The news of the unexpected death of **ANN WIDDICOMBE** would I think have taken the majority of people by great surprise. Despite being 78, she was a regular face on various TV channels and was always ‘clear-thinking’ when speaking. Sky news has published a helpful ‘timeline’ of events surrounding her death/murder and it can be accessed on this link –

<https://news.sky.com/story/ann-widdecombe-murder-latest-suspect-joshua-kerry-live-court-inquest-13563394>

You need to scroll down to where it says –

Timeline: From Widdecombe's final TV appearance to police investigation

PHYSICALLY this was a **TRAGEDY** of immense, obscene and horrific dimensions which was apparently caught on a CCTV camera as you can read on this link –

<https://crimewatch.co.uk/anne-widdecombes-killer-asked-her-a-chilling-question-before-murder-court-hears/>

The pain and grief caused to her family and friends by the nature of her death must be absolutely immeasurable and in no way would I wish to diminish that – it was absolutely barbaric.

Politically, morally and ethically I often ‘sang from the same hymn sheet’ as **ANN WIDDICOMBE** and welcomed her visit to Northern Ireland to support opposition to the infamous **PROTOCOL** that has shattered Northern Ireland’s ‘relationship’ with the rest of the United Kingdom. She had a good sense of humour as was evidenced by her opening remarks at that meeting where she affirmed, she was a Roman Catholic speaking in a (Protestant) Orange Hall – you can see that on this link –

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8xiu8s>

In the title to this article, I referred to a ‘**DOUBLE TRAGEDY?**’ and this brings me to the real possibility and likelihood of a **SPIRITUAL** tragedy.

In her opening remarks at Dromore Orange Hall **ANN WIDDICOMBE** confirmed that she was a **Roman Catholic** and many posts and articles written since her death have referred to her as being a Christian.

BEN HABIB is a political figure that I have great admiration for as he has proved himself in recent years to be a true friend of Northern Ireland and he posted several times on Facebook about Ann's death and here are some of the things he said –

‘So sorry to hear of the death of Ann Widdecombe. She was a true patriot. **A deeply Christian lady** with unbending principles. Her stiff upper lip was matched with an equally big heart and sympathy for others. She was an ardent unionist and stood shoulder to shoulder with me over Northern Ireland. I loved Ann and will greatly miss her ... Ann Widdecombe represented a political tradition Britain is rapidly losing. She had firm principles, deep compassion and absolute integrity. When Ann gave her word, she meant it. I was proud to stand alongside her in defence of Northern Ireland and our United Kingdom. Her death is a great loss to the country. Britain has lost one of the few politicians whose word still meant something.’

Again, I would agree with the majority of sentiments expressed by **Ben Habib** but you will note that I have highlighted one expression used by him in red that she was **A deeply Christian lady**.

When it comes to **SPIRITUAL** matters, we as Christians are commanded to “**try (test) the spirits whether they are of God**” so, where exactly did **ANN WIDDICOMBE** stand **spiritually**?

ANN WIDDICOMBE started life **spiritually** as an **Anglican**. However, she was deeply critical of the Church of England and formally converted to **Roman Catholicism** in 1993. The following is from her bio on **WIKIPEDIA** located on - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Widdecombe -

Widdecombe became an Anglican in her 30s, after a period of agnosticism following her departure from religious schooling. She converted to Roman Catholicism in 1993 after leaving the Church of England explaining to reporters from the New Statesman -

I left the Church of England because there was a huge bundle of straw. The ordination of women was the last straw, but it was only one of many. For years I had been disillusioned by the Church of England's compromising on everything. The Catholic Church doesn't care if something is unpopular ...

In 2010, Widdicombe declined the offer to be Britain's next ambassador to the Holy See because she was suffering from a detached retina. She was made a Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Benedict XVI for services to politics and public life on 31 January 2013.

ANN WIDDICOMBE was clearly a lady who was held in the highest esteem by the 'hierarchy' of **The Vatican**. When she converted to **Roman Catholicism**, she solemnly swore **"I believe everything the church teaches to be revealed truth"**. She was not a **'Cafeteria Catholic'** – picking and choosing what to believe from Rome's 'theological menu' – NO, she believed ALL that Rome taught, unlike **Tony Blair** whom she criticised when he challenged Rome's stance on LGBT about a year after he converted to Rome. You can read details of that on this link –

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2009/apr/08/tony-blair-vatican-gay-rights>

I googled **'Ann Widdicombe challenges Tony Blair's Catholicism'** and this **AI Overview** came up –

Former Conservative MP and Catholic convert Ann Widdicombe publicly challenged Tony Blair's 2007 conversion to Catholicism. She argued that because of his past voting record—notably on abortion, gay adoption, and embryo research—he needed to explicitly state that he had changed his views to align with Church teachings.

Widdicombe's specific challenges included:

- **The Profession of Faith**: She highlighted that anyone received into the Catholic Church must state, "I believe everything the Church teaches to be revealed truth".

- **The Voting Record:** She pointed out that Blair consistently voted against Church teachings during his time in office, such as supporting abortion and removing exemptions for Catholic adoption agencies regarding the placement of children with same-sex couples.
- **The Call for Clarification:** She insisted that unless Blair publicly acknowledged he was wrong on those matters, the public would perceive that special exceptions were made for him due to his political status.

Blair formally converted to Roman Catholicism in December 2007. While his conversion was welcomed by the Vatican, prominent Catholic figures and politicians like Widdecombe questioned whether his past political actions were reconcilable with the faith.

Since her death, a range of **Roman Catholic** groupings have posted tributes and details of events to pay tribute to her, such as –

BUCKFAST ABBEY on Facebook –

Fr Abbot and the Monastic Community of Buckfast were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Ann Widdecombe in such tragic and disturbing circumstances.

Ann was a frequent worshipper in the Abbey Church, attending our Sunday Solemn Mass, and notably attended our Holy Week and Easter services. Many in our worshipping community knew her as a kind and warm character. She will be missed and fondly remembered.

Ann was a woman of profound faith, a faith which found expression in the public forum of politics. Ann was unafraid to express her unwavering convictions, formed through her Roman Catholic faith. She had a sharp intellect and was a dedicated public servant.

Fr Abbot and the Monastic Community extend their heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. Fr Abbot will offer our 11:00 Solemn Mass tomorrow for the repose of her soul.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

The Reverend Joe Ellis: on Facebook 18/7/2026 –

The Catholic Writers' Guild has organized a sacred Mass to honour the memory of Ann Widdecombe, a distinguished author of four novels and a former Mistress of the Keys in the 1990s.

This solemn gathering will take place at 6pm on Thursday July 23, at the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mayfair, London:

Diocese of Westminster on Facebook

"This morning, Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of Ann Widdecombe at Westminster Cathedral, where she was sometimes the Lector at the Sunday evening mass. We pray for her family and friends at this time. May she rest in peace. ~ Archbishop Richard Dooley"

At the time of her conversion, I wrote to **ANN WIDDICOMBE** and sought to point her to the truth of salvation and away from Rome's false teachings on salvation. This happened some 33 years ago and I do not have copies of that correspondence now so I am working very much from memory. I believe that in my first letter I possibly included a copy of my tract '**Purgatory before Death**', details are on page 2 of the article on –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/November-2014/Purgatory.pdf>

From memory I received a polite acknowledgment but I then wrote a further letter to her concerning the choice of a name she chose on entering the Church of Rome.

When she left the Church of England and converted to Roman Catholicism, she chose "**Hugh**" as her **baptismal/confirmation name** in honor of **Bishop Hugh Latimer**. I pointed out to her that he was one of the Reformers burnt at the stake by the Church of Rome and it seemed highly inappropriate for her to select his name as she entered that very same church.

She replied and said that the Church of Rome was very different to the one of Hugh Latimer's day – I think she meant it no longer burnt its opponents to death.

I replied and said that she was right in that the Church of Rome today was very different from Latimer's time – it had got **WORSE** theologically as subsequent to Latimer's time Rome had pronounced additional dogmas such as '**Papal Infallibility**', '**Mary's Immaculate Conception**' and '**Mary's Bodily Assumption into Heaven**', all of which had no basis in The Word of God.

Again, I received a formal typed polite acknowledgment **BUT** written in ink on the letter, in her own handwriting, were words to the effect that '**I totally disagree with your views and ministry**'.

I thought then it was an insult to the memory of **Hugh Latimer** to select his name as her '**baptismal/confirmation name**' and I still hold to that view today. In his book. '**Five English Reformers**', Bishop J C Ryle, in his chapter '**Hugh Latimer Bishop and Martyr**' wrote on page 110 –

'He (Hugh Latimer) says again, in another sermon, "Learn to abhor the most detestable and dangerous poison of the Papists, which go about to thrust Christ out of His office. Learn, I say, to leave all Papistry, and to stick only to the Word of God, which teacheth that Christ is not only a judge but a justifier, a giver of salvation and a taker away of sin.

He purchased our salvation through His painful death, and we receive the same through believing in Him, as St Paul teacheth us, saying, freely ye are justified through faith. In these words of St Paul, all merits and estimation of works are excluded and clean taken away. For if it were for our work's sake, then it were not freely, but St Paul saith freely.

Whether will you now believe St Paul or the Papists?"

Hugh Latimer, would I believe have been less than impressed by **Ann Widdicombe's** 'honouring' of him and would instead I think have been deeply grieved by her action.

I have underlined portions of what **Hugh Latimer** preached as they have an important bearing of what I want to address now.

On 17th July 2026 I posted the following image and comments on Facebook –



**ANN WIDDECOMBE and SALVATION:
“TAKE HEED”.**

The brutal killing of **ANN WIDDICOMBE** was truly shocking and I am in no doubt that it is the source of intense grief and sorrow to her family and friends and in no way would I seek to minimise that – it is a grotesque, unimaginable **physical tragedy** and they are worthy of our prayers at this time.

There is, however, also a spiritual tragedy and this image of and statement attributed to **ANN WIDDECOMBE**, which was posted yesterday by a number of my own Facebook friends on their Facebook pages, when properly understood, is **'key'** to understanding that second, **spiritual tragedy**.

On each page that the image was posted I wrote the following comment

'The tragedy is that whilst on the face of it this statement sounds absolutely correct, it lacks one vital word and it is this - the word **'alone'. Yes, Rome teaches that Calvary is essential for salvation, BUT, just like the Judaisers that Paul condemned in Galatians 1: 6-9 who added on the necessity of religious ritual for salvation (see Acts 15: 1), Rome does the same - in Rome's Catechism, Paragraph 1129 states, **'The Church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant** (Cecil - baptism, confession, the mass etc.) **are NECESSARY for salvation.'** When Ann converted to Roman Catholicism she solemnly swore to accept and believe all of Rome's teachings - truly tragic.'**

When Ann Widdecombe converted to Roman Catholicism in 1993, she solemnly swore **"I believe everything the church teaches to be revealed truth"**. She later criticised Tony Blair, another high-profile convert to Rome for daring to question Rome's teaching on 'matters LGBT', thus violating that solemn oath.

In relation to this statement, she understood that the 'salvation', available through Calvary, is appropriated via the Roman Catholic sacramental system, as taught by her church, and that is clearly unbiblical in the light of Galatians 1: 6-9 and Titus 3: 5.

It is my hope in the next few weeks to pen a fuller article which will include amongst other things my recollection of personal exchanges I had with **Ann Widdicombe** in the wake of her conversion to Rome.

2 things in closing. Firstly, on politics and moral and ethical issues I was very much 'on the same page' as Ann Widdicombe. Secondly, I am in no doubt that over the next weeks Rome will make much of Ann's Roman Catholic 'faith' and will seek to present itself as a true expression of Christianity – it is not!

The underlined portions of **Hugh Latimer's** sermon utterly refute Rome's assertion that **'the sacraments of the New Covenant are NECESSARY for salvation.'**

In closing I have read many who have stated that there are definitely Christians within Roman Catholicism and a comment on my Facebook thread was to that effect. This was a portion of that comment –

She was a firm witness for Christ and bravely upheld key tenets of Christian ethics, rather more than most Anglicans would. Nowadays the main divide is no longer Protestant v Catholic but liberal v conservative. Not ignoring differences, we need to stand alongside Christians of all denominations who uphold the foundational tenets of the Faith. In response I wrote –

So, xxxxx, were the Reformers who in many cases suffered martyrdom for their 'faith' wrong to 'call out' the false 'faith' of Roman Catholicism. In relation to Anne, I agreed with much of her politics and her ethics, BUT on the question of 'salvation' she was sadly the victim of 'another Christ' promoted by a false religious system that has led and is leading countless millions to a lost eternity. As Luther famously declared and I echo it 'Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience would be neither right nor safe. God help me. Here I stand, I can do no other.'

Another comment on my Facebook thread concerned the possibility of there being genuine, saved believers within Roman Catholicism and this was my response –

I believe of course that Roman Catholics can be truly saved (just think of the Reformers) BUT I do not believe that they can indefinitely stay within the Roman Catholic system (see 2 Corinthians 6: 14-18). It will of course take some longer than others to realise they need to leave BUT, if guided by the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of TRUTH" (John 14: 17) they will leave and that was the testimony of the many former Roman Catholics that I have ministered with over the years including former priests. Rome is extremely 'subtle' - it uses biblical, evangelical language (in many ways just like Mormonism) but understands and defines that terminology in a very unbiblical manner.

The brutal death of **Ann Widdicombe** was a hideous **PHYSICAL** tragedy but I fear that when it comes to the **SPIRITUAL** aspect there may well have been a **DOUBLE TRAGEDY**.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 23rd July 2026.