



Document:	Press statement Re The Requiem Mass of Ann Widdecombe
Date of issue:	10/08/2026

Requiem Mass

The Requiem Mass of Ann Widdecombe will take place on Wednesday 12th August at Buckfast Abbey, Ann's regular place of worship.

Ann's family are deeply grateful for the many messages of sympathy and support they have received. The family wish to hold a private Requiem Mass, attended by Ann's closest family and friends, so that they may gather in remembrance and grief with dignity and peace.

Press Access

The family respectfully request that members of the press do not attend, to preserve their privacy, and to avoid disruption to those attending.

Buckfast Abbey asks the press for understanding and restraint at this time, to respect the family's wishes. There will be no access to the Abbey Church on the day of the Requiem Mass.

Order of Service

The Order of Service will be published online at 09:00 on the day of the Requiem Mass, and will contain the texts of the Scripture Readings, Prayers, Hymns and musical items to be sung by the Abbey Choir.

It will be available to download here: <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/press/>

Homily

The Requiem Mass will be offered by The Right Revered David Charlesworth, *Abbot of Buckfast*. His Homily to be preached at the Requiem Mass will be made available at 14:00 on the day, via the same link.

Interviews

We respectfully ask that press do not approach guests for interview. No interviews will be given by Ann's family, and no interviews will be given by Buckfast Abbey personnel.

Photography

A small number of official photographs of the service will be released afterwards, and will be available to download, via the same link.

Guest List

The names of guest attendees will not be published.

Condolences and Tributes

There will be no Book of Condolence, and the public are kindly asked not to bring floral tributes.

ENDS

For press enquiries (not related to attendance on the day), please contact:

Carol Davies

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Notes to Editors:

About Buckfast Abbey

Located at the centre of a picturesque valley on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, Buckfast Abbey is home to a community of Roman Catholic Benedictine Monks, who live their lives of prayer, work and study according to the ancient rule of St Benedict.

The heart of our site is the Abbey Church and Monastery – the place in which the Monastic Community lives and prays at various times throughout the day. Our site is historic – the original Abbey being founded in 1018 AD, by King Cnut.

Today, our site is a flourishing complex of buildings which the monks have continually developed to aid them in realising their vision for Buckfast - to be a national centre of witness to God, and the Roman Catholic faith.

To that end, the community places a great value upon hospitality, and welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Our site also includes beautiful gardens, a restaurant, cafes, retail outlet, a conference centre, and a broad range of guest accommodation.

Fuller site detail:

Buckfast Abbey is the only English Benedictine monastery to be re-founded upon its original pre-reformation site.

After the dissolution of the monasteries under King Henry VIII in 1538, the Abbey Church fell into ruin. It was rebuilt stone by stone upon its medieval foundations by a group of French monks.

The Abbey Church is a haven of peace and tranquillity. It features a dramatic Lantern ceiling, various art treasures and the striking Blessed Sacrament Chapel depicting Christ in coloured glass, designed and manufactured by a Buckfast monk in the 1960's.

The Abbey Church is a place of worship and visitors are welcome to participate in the daily celebration of Mass, sung by the Monastic community to ancient Gregorian chants. The community is joined on Sundays by the Abbey Choir – the only professional Roman Catholic Choir in the South West, which sings the 11:00 Solemn Mass, and 15:00 Vespers and Benediction. Some services are also live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube, for those who are not able to be present.

As well as being home to the community of monks, Buckfast Abbey is a popular tourist attraction in the South West. Visitors may enjoy the calm atmosphere of our gardens; the stunning architecture and artwork of our Abbey Church; enjoy recitals of choral and organ music by internationally renowned choirs and organists; as well as the delicious lunches and cream teas

offered in our Grange Restaurant. For barista style coffee and delicious snacks visit the Abbot's Way Café.

Our shop offers an extensive range of items produced by monasteries all over the world, from gifts, cards and books, to food and drink including products made by the monks of Buckfast.

Visitors also have the option of staying in our attractive and comfortable on-site Hotel – Northgate House, or in one of our other self-catering accommodation facilities. The hotel is the location of an Italian themed Restaurant, San Benedetto's.

Our recently refurbished Schiller Hall (part of St Cuthbert's Conference Centre) is an incredible space to participate in events and meetings.

Buckfast Abbey is also known for its fortified tonic wine, which is still made in the Abbey's grounds, and based on a traditional French recipe.