



**MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ALAN HOPES
TO THE PEOPLE OF SAWSTON AND CAMBOURNE
FOR
THE WEEKEND NOVEMBER 4/5 2017**

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, the two communities of Sawston and Cambourne, which at present form part of the Parish of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, have, over these past nine months, been pastorally cared for by Canon John Minh.

The Diocese has been aware that in both Cambourne and Sawston there will be a dramatic growth in the population over the next few years through the new housing schemes that are already being planned. This will mean an increase in the number of Catholics in both communities. The parish of Cambridge already has a very large Catholic Community and a vast geographical area to cover. It has been decided that it is no longer feasible for that parish to give your two communities the full pastoral care which you deserve.

I am, therefore, delighted to be able to inform you today, that, having gone through the due canonical process, the Diocese has agreed that the communities of Sawston and Cambourne, are to be united as one parish under the Title of Our Lady of Lourdes (Sawston) with Saint John Fisher (Cambourne), and I have

appointed Canon John Minh as the first Parish Priest of the new parish.

The decree for the erection of the new parish will come into effect on January 2nd 2018. I will be coming to the parish early in January to induct Canon John as your Parish Priest.

I met with members of the two Community Councils last week and with the two Chairs of Finance some weeks ago in order to inform them of this decision. They, together with Canon John, will be working on the administrative side of things over the next few months, in order to make the change over a smooth one.

I would ask all of you to support them and the new parish with your prayers so that the two Communities will work closely together for our mission in Sawston and Cambourne. You have a challenging mission but I believe with God's grace you will discover that it is also a great opportunity.

May Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint John Fisher pray for you all.

Please be assured of my prayers and good wishes,

Devotedly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Alan S. Hopes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

**The Right Revd Alan S Hopes
Bishop of East Anglia**