



15 November 2021

Dear Family Members in Christ,

We learned yesterday of Fr. Michael Hinson's sudden death at home on Saturday evening, November 13th. We are shocked by the news, and Jane and his family are still reeling, as is expected.

Fr. Michael came to The Falls Church in 2012, shortly after the property was returned to the parish amidst the turbulence of litigation. From 2012 until this August, Fr. Michael served as Priest Associate and ministered to this flock with a prayerful, thoughtful, pastoral presence and found his way into countless hearts here. The relationships he nurtured, the balm he offered, and the graceful, listening heart he brought to this parish are hallmarks of our life together and have helped make the witness of The Falls Church what it is.

We, along with St. Stephen's and St. Agnes' School, where Fr. Michael was Middle School Religion Teacher and Chaplain, St. Christopher's Church, where Jane and Fr. Michael worshipped when not at The Falls Church, and the clergy of the Diocese of Virginia, are beginning to grapple with the sudden death of an important member of our respective communities, but as people of faith, we know that God holds us in the palm of God's hand and comforts us in our grief. Jesus tells us that he is Resurrection and he is Life, and in Jesus we do not hope in vain.

The family has asked for privacy at this time, and we shall share details for a service once those plans have been made. In the meantime, I ask your prayers for Jane, children Lauren and Sam, and this community as we begin to mourn Fr. Michael's death..

In peace,

Burl+

*Grant to him eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.*