

## WINCHESTER COLLEGE

### SCULPTURE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST (CORPUS) BY PETER EUGENE BALL



The Corpus was commissioned for the east wall of Thurbern's Chantry (south-west corner of Chapel) and was designed to complement Our Lady of Winton who resides in the same space. It is therefore made from the same semi-tropical red hardwood known as yarra and covered in parts with copper, silver and gold leaf embellishment. The decoration on the sleeve and hem of the robe of the Corpus echoes the pattern of tiny silver and coloured flowers which adorn the Madonna. The juxtaposition of the Corpus with Our Lady of Winton encapsulates Christ's life on earth and offers an optimistic vision of the future. Christ is clothed in a flowing robe and his arms are outstretched, forming the shape of the Cross, but the Cross itself is absent. His hands and feet bear the signs of his wounds but there are no nails. He has moved into a state of transcendence and his body appears to be floating in air. The bowed head and dangling feet suggest an attitude of resignation and acceptance. His eyes are closed, not in suffering, but in divine contemplation. This is a lyrical piece with gently inclined body, tilted head and soft folds of cloth. The robe offers a canvas for discs of light and swirling decoration which lift and illuminate the figure. In making this Corpus, the sculptor provides a focus which is not so much about suffering and misery as compassion, resignation, patience and hope for the future. The Corpus was installed in February 2011.