



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TAEA

Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard

Religious Studies Level 1

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91917

Demonstrate understanding of how a significant narrative relates to a religious or spiritual tradition

An annotated exemplar is a sample of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

Grade: Achieved

For Achieved, the student needs to describe the origin or context of a significant narrative that relates to a religious tradition and describe the key messages in the chosen significant narrative. Relevant examples should be used in the description.

This involves describing the process of formation of the significant narrative or a description of the context in which the narrative was written. This could include details of how the narrative was written and by who, when, and where it was written, and who the intended audience was. At least two key messages should be described. Key messages are important ideas or communications featured in the chosen significant narrative.

The description of the key messages could include what is communicated in the key message and how or where the key message is reflected in the chosen narrative. Relevant examples included in the description could be quotes from the chosen narrative.

This student has described the context of Luke's Gospel and identified two key messages found in this Gospel: Prayer and Love. Both key messages have been described. This description includes what is being communicated in each key message. A relevant example from Luke's Gospel is used to support the description of both key messages.

The student has also connected the key message of love to the Catholic tradition through an explanation of the connection between the key message and the work and vision of the Catholic organisation St Vincent De Paul. This is part of the requirement for Merit.

For Merit, the student should connect both key messages (Love and Prayer) to the Catholic tradition, using examples from within the tradition (e.g. Church teaching, religious practice) to support the explanation.

Achieved

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The gospels were written between 70-100 AD by evangelists anonymously. The Gospels got named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Luke's gospel is split into three stages. The first stage is the life and teachings of Jesus. He taught the people through short stories called parables. He also taught through miracles to prove that he is the son of God. The second stage is the oral tradition. This is about the apostles going out and telling people Jesus and his teachings after he died. Stage three is about the written gospels about Jesus' teachings. The gospel of Luke is thought to be written by a gentile Christian for Christians and gentiles, who are non-Jewish people. It was written so that people now days can read and hear about Jesus. Luke's gospel is about love it has happy themes throughout it. In Luke's gospel Jesus is shown as a teacher. There are many Key messages in the gospel of Luke. A very big key message is the theme of love and it is found throughout the gospel of Luke. One of these key messages in Luke's gospel is Jesus teaching us to pray and talk to God. Another message in the gospel of Luke is mercy and forgiveness.

Although there are many messages throughout the Gospel of Luke. Two key messages in this gospel are prayer and love. One of these key messages in the gospel of Luke is that Jesus wanted us to pray. *"... when you pray say: 'Father, hallowed be your name'..."* (Luke 11:2) Jesus gave us the prayer Our Father so that we could learn how to pray properly. He uses it to teach us to pray to God, who is our father. Prayer connects to Catholicism because Jesus would want us to pray. He wanted us to talk to God and ask him for things, this can also lead to us praying for personal things that we may need or be worried about. The belief is that we should use prayer to talk to God and we can practice this by prayers like the Our Father. At our school we do this by saying the Our Father in liturgies and masses, we also sometimes say this prayer in our RST classes to start class.

Another key message in the gospel of Luke is love, Jesus wanted us to love God and our neighbours. *"He answered, 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself'"* (Luke 10:27) Jesus wants us to love our neighbours as much as we love ourselves. Our neighbours are not just those who are near us, they are everybody. Jesus wanted us to love everybody. He also wants us to love our God with our heart, soul, strength and mind meaning we should love God in every way we can. Ways we can show our love for God is by going to church and being kind and helpful to those who need it.

In society today we still follow messages in the Bible even though it is so old. We can still relate the bible to the present day as we still have people who are poor and people who are marginalized. In 2024 we have organizations that are from the catholic faith, These are Caritas, St Vincent De Paul and the Catholic Social Teachings.

St Vincent de Paul is a catholic society in New Zealand who carry out actions from the gospel of Luke. Their Vision is *"To live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society."* - St Vincent De Paul, New Zealand. This is showing how they are living the teachings of Jesus in Luke's gospel by the key messages like loving the poor. They have a belief of helping others, they do this by going out and helping the poor by having shops with secondhand stuff for people who might not have enough money to afford to buy new things. As Catholics we can help this charity by donating our clothes and

toys, that we don't use anymore to the St Vincent De Paul shops. We also could volunteer some of our time to work at the shops.

Caritas is another Catholic organization who live out Lukes's gospel by helping those who need it most. *"Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand will be known as love in action. We unite with communities, especially in the parishes, colleges, marae, religious orders and schools of Aotearoa and Oceania to overcome poverty, protect lives and relieve suffering."* (Caritas 2021) This quote is showing how Caritas are living out Lukes gospel by love. They are doing this by acts service helping those in need in communities in both Aotearoa New Zealand and Oceania. They are living out the gospel by helping those in poverty and help those who are suffering. Our school can help by donating money to the charity, purchasing from the Caritas canteen at interval and lunch, participating or watching air bands, and donating for gold coin mufti days

In conclusion the gospel of Luke is spilt up in to three stages, the life and teachings of Jesus, the oral tradition and the written gospels. Lukes's gospel also has many messages throughout it that we still can relate to as Catholics today. We can see how the message of love is important to Catholics today. We can do this by loving everyone and God. We can also see how Jesus' message to pray is still relevant in the present day. We use prayers that Jesus taught us to pray like the Our Father. As Catholics we still follow Jesus' Missions. We have organizations like Caritas and St Vincent De Paul. These charities are living out the gospel of Luke by following some of the key messages in the gospel. We can help these charities by donating to them or helping them out. Although the Bible is very old, we can still relate the gospels to our life in the present and use Jesus' teachings to our lives today.

Grade: Merit

For Merit, the student needs to explain how a significant narrative relates to a religious or spiritual tradition.

This involves explaining how the key messages from a significant narrative connect to a religious or spiritual tradition. Examples should be used to support the explanation.

This student has described the context of Matthew's Gospel and two key messages from this narrative: Jesus as Teacher and Jesus as King. The student has explained how the key message of Jesus contained in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11) connect to the Catholic tradition by using a Catholic Social Teaching to support this explanation.

The student has also explained how the theme of Jesus as King connects to the Catholic Tradition following God's will and building the Kingdom on earth by promoting Peace. An example from the Catechism is used to support this explanation.

For Excellence, the student could discuss how both key messages can be applied within the Catholic Tradition. For example, the work of the Catholic organisation Pax Christi Aotearoa could be used as an example to illustrate how Jesus' Teachings promote peace-making in society in order to build the Kingdom.

The significant narrative I have chosen to discuss is the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew was written in the city of Antioch by an unknown author; however, we can assume that the author was a church leader, associated with Matthew the Disciple, or was a Jewish Christian who knew much about the Jewish Faith and Traditions. The gospel of Matthew is thought to have been written in 85–90 AD. Some historic events, such as the second destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, were recognised by the author, which occurred in 70 AD.

The first key message that is expressed throughout the Gospel of Matthew is that Jesus is a teacher. In Matthew 5:3–11, Jesus gave a sermon about true happiness, which explains how to live happy and prosperous lives and how to ensure eternal life in heaven. Jesus taught us eight ways to live; these are known as the beatitudes. Verses 6–9 relate to the acts of a person to care for his creation. God requires us to care for his creation. Being merciful and pure in heart and working to create peace in relationships, communities, and the world is what God requires of us. Jesus taught us to care for God's creation, and in return, God will give us happiness and eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. This key message relates to the Catholic faith, as we are taught to care for and protect people and the environment. By caring for the creation of God, we are living the way Jesus taught us. The Catholic Social Teaching (CST) of preferential option for the poor and vulnerable applies to the key message that Jesus is a teacher and how we must care for God's creation.¹ As Catholics, we are to have preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, which means we should think about the needs of those who are vulnerable and put them before ourselves. In Leviticus 19:9–10, preferential option for the poor and vulnerable is shown as it states, "True worship is to work for justice and to care for the poor and oppressed." An individual today can show preferential option for the poor and vulnerable through the seven corporal works of mercy taught to us by Jesus. By feeding the hungry, giving drinks to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the prisoners, or burying the dead, the individual is showing preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.² Caritas is a charitable organisation that is influenced by the Catholic social teaching and advocates for preferential option for those who live in poverty and are at a disadvantage.³ Caritas uses its donations of money or food to go to the homeless, the handicapped, and those who live in hostile environments where food and shelter are not available.

The second key message that is expressed throughout the gospel of Matthew is that Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth. In Matthew 2:11–12, Jesus is born, and visitors from the east come to see Jesus and give him gifts of a king. "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Traditionally, the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were ordinary offerings to kings. Gold was valuable and associated with royalty and immortality; frankincense could be made into a perfume as the scent was valued; and myrrh was used to make perfumes and ointments.⁴ When these gifts were given to Jesus, they each symbolised a part of His life and identity. The gift of gold represented the kingship of Jesus, frankincense represented the worship of Jesus, and myrrh represented the death and mourning of Jesus.⁵ This key message relates to the Catholic faith, as we are to do God's will to create his kingdom on Earth. In Matthew 9:10, Jesus said, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Following the teachings of Jesus, the King of Heaven and Earth, we are able to carry out God's will to build His Kingdom on earth. God's Kingdom is peaceful, loving, just, and prosperous. For us to live our lives to fulfil God's will, we must live and share the ways of God's Kingdom. The Catholic social teaching of promotion of peace relates to the key message that Jesus is the King and the upholding of God's will. As Catholics, we must promote peace to fulfil God's Kingdom on earth. This means that we must be candid, loving, and peaceful in our interactions with others. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC. 2304, it states, "Peace cannot be

attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is 'the tranquillity of order.' Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity."

Grade: Excellence

For Excellence, the student needs to examine how a significant narrative relates to a religious or spiritual tradition

This involves discussing how key messages from a significant narrative are applied within a religious or spiritual tradition. Examples should be used to develop the explanations.

This student has described the origin of Luke's Gospel and two key messages from this significant narrative: Love of God and neighbour and Forgiveness. The student has also explained how both key messages connect to the Catholic Tradition.

The student has discussed how the key message of Love of God and neighbour is applied through the work of Catholic organisations who live out this teaching. Examples from Caritas and St Vincent de Paul were integrated as examples into the discussion. Similarly, the student has discussed how the key message of forgiveness is applied within the Catholic tradition through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The formation of the Gospels happened through three stages over a long time. The first stage was Jesus's life on earth when he was walking among us preaching, performing Miricale's, and teaching people about the wonder of God. *This is shown in the Bible Mark 1:40-45 "Be clean! Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed."* He performs a Miricale showing the people that he is truly the son of God and that all his teachings are true. The second stage, also known as the oral tradition, was after Jesus was crucified and the apostles took it upon themselves to continue spreading the word of God. However, the apostles were scared that they would end up at the same fate. So, at Pentecost, at the start of the second stage, God sent down the Holy Spirit to give them courage. This is shown in the Bible in *Acts 4:31 "When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."* This means that God knew they were in a time of need, so he sent down the Holy Spirit to give them the strength they needed to continue Jesus's mission. The third stage (also called the writing tradition) was when almost all the eyewitnesses to Jesus's public ministry had died out. This meant his teachings needed to be written down so they could be preserved for generations to come. The four Gospel writers Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John gathered to combine their eyewitness accounts to create the 4 gospels. These were written between 70-100 AD and were all included in the New Testament of the Bible as they all have a unique take on Jesus's teachings. The evidence for this stage is quite literally the Gospels as without Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John writing them they would not exist showing us that they truly wrote them.

Luke was an evangelist who wrote the gospel of Luke and Acts inspired by God. He wrote the Gospel of Luke to his friends and especially for the Gentiles as they were treated like outcasts by the Jews. He lived a humble life and was trained as a Greek doctor. Historians believe Luke traveled and listened to the stories of people who had witnessed Jesus as he wasn't an eyewitness himself to Jesus's ministry. Neither was he an apostle, but his friend Paul was an apostle whom he was mentored by and joined on multiple missionary journeys. Without Luke writing down these accounts of Jesus's Teachings they would have been lost to history. The main messages in Luke's Gospel are embracing the poor and vulnerable and forgiving those who have sinned against you. These are key teachings that Jesus taught us while he was on earth, and we as Catholics should live our lives by them.

Luke's Gospel expresses Jesus's love for God and loving your Neighbour through the two most important commandments. This is shown in the Bible in *Luke 10:27 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself"* This shows us how Jesus taught us to embrace and love everyone especially the outcasts which translates to the key message in Luke's Gospel which is caring for the poor and vulnerable. No matter whether people are Gentile

or Jew, Rich, or Poor, Female or Male it makes no difference as we are all made in the likeness of God. This means everyone is deserving of our respect and to uphold their dignity. This message is still relevant today as there are still outcasts in our society who need to be treated with love and kindness. Catholics live out Jesus's teaching of loving the outcasts by holding community meals where those in need can receive a free meal as well as connect with others. Filling them up both physically and spiritually. Catholics also live out the message by funding and creating charities like Caritas and St Vincent De Paul Society which strive to better the lives of those facing hardship and embrace those who are rejected by society. As I have shown the message of embracing outcasts which Jesus taught us is applied by Catholics through their beliefs and daily lives.

Luke's Gospel also expresses how Jesus teaches us that we should always show forgiveness to others. This is shown in the Bible in Luke 11:3 –4 *"Forgive us for our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us..."* This shows us that Jesus believed that forgiveness was an important part of being a Catholic which translates to the key message in Luke which is that everyone deserves forgiveness. This message is shown in the Bible quote Luke 23:34 *"Then Jesus said, Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing..."* Here Jesus even on the cross about to die for our sins still sees the goodness and innocence in others, forgiving even those who sold him to be crucified. Jesus sets us the highest example and shows us how forgiveness is most important even above our self-preservation. This message is still relevant today and we should be following Jesus's example through our actions by forgiving those who have wronged us. This is what it means to be Catholic and is an important practice and value in the catholic faith. Catholics practice forgiveness through reconciliation which is where we can be forgiven for our sins by the priest through God. This is important as we can renew our relationship with God and turn away from sin. An example of a Catholic showing forgiveness is Pope John Paul II who forgave the person who attempted to assassinate him. This is an excellent example of Catholics practicing forgiveness and living their lives by this belief.

Catholics aim to live their lives by the gospel of Luke and to live out Jesus's Teachings. One of the key messages of Luke is embracing the outcasts. Catholics live out this teaching through funding and creating charities such as Caritas and St Vincent De Paul Society. Caritas is New Zealand and Oceania's Catholic Charity; they are the second-largest organization in the world that works for the better of others. They help instill hope and transform the lives of those facing hardship or unjust. Evidence of this is found in their vision statement *"We aim to enable lives of dignity and hope by eliminating injustice and poverty, inspired and guided by the gospels of Jesus and catholic Social teachings."* They do this by funding people in need, giving them life skills, and offering climate change resilience. An example of them living out their vision is in Papua New Guinea where women are not seen as equals to men, disregarded, and treated like outcasts.

Caritas has helped create a safe place for them by funding the Lujan Home for Girls. Women

flee from unsafe situations such as abuse, forced marriage, poverty or not having access to vital human needs, and find safety in the home. Through the home, they learn essential life skills and are empowered and filled with hope that the future is brighter for them. Bridget, one of the girls in the home said, *"Life before I came to the Lujan home was very difficult for me, I enjoy staying with the sisters because this house is safe to me."* This shows us how Caritas lifted her from a dangerous situation and gave her a safe place where she can grow and learn without constantly fearing what might happen to her or when her next meal will be. Through doing this Caritas is showing love to the outcasts by welcoming the women who are outsiders and rejected by society with open arms, Bridget also said, *"In the future, I would like to be a doctor"* This shows us how Caritas has helped turn her life around and showed her that she can achieve her dreams. Before she would have never have even dreamt that she would have a chance to become a doctor. But, because Caritas has instilled hope in her by teaching and nurturing her, her future is looking brighter. By creating this home for Girls and embracing women who are seen as outcasts Caritas is living out Luke's message of looking after the poor and vulnerable. As well as the Catholic Social Teaching of Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable as they are putting first the needs of others less fortunate and caring for and helping them. Just like Caritas, we as Catholics should also be striving to live out Jesus's teaching of embracing the outcasts. We should be inclusive and not discriminate against anyone in society; loving all people. In our school community, we live out Luke's gospel message through the Caritas canteen. This creates an opportunity for students to become actively involved through organizing and selling the food. As well as the students who are buying the food as they are helping to fund those in need. By supporting this cause we are showing love and compassion towards those less fortunate, which is the key message of Luke.

Another example of Catholics living out the Gospel of Luke is through the St Vincent De Paul society. They are a Global catholic organization that relies on the generosity of others through donations and volunteer work. They strive to live out the Gospel by aiding those in need. This is shown through their vision statement *"To live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and working to shape a more just and compassionate society."* (St Vincent De Paul 2021) They live out their vision in [REDACTED] by holding community meals which are where those facing hardship can receive a free meal which is very appreciated by those struggling to put food on the table. The meals also give people an opportunity to connect with others and help make them feel like valued members of the community. This means people are being filled up not only physically by receiving food but are also spiritually nourished through human connection. Adults and students together generously give up their time to help out and give back to the community at these meals. Through doing this St Vinnies is also living out the Catholic Social Teaching of Human Dignity by allowing people to uphold their dignity by not letting them beg for help but instead giving it freely and willingly.

The second key message in Luke's Gospel is forgiving others. Catholics believe that everyone

is worthy of forgiveness as Jesus himself taught us this through the Gospel of Luke. Because God himself forgives us for our sins it means we must then forgive others for theirs. Everyone is worthy of forgiveness no matter the crime or how bad they have hurt someone. An example of forgiveness is Pope John Paul II who was the former Pope and believed wholeheartedly that everyone was deserving of forgiveness. He was attempted to be assassinated and was shot twice. He lived and forgave his would-be assassinator saying, *"I pray for the brother who struck me, whom I have sincerely forgiven."* These were the first words he uttered in his hospital bed after almost facing death. Just like Jesus who in his pain on the cross forgave those who crucified him, the Pope also thought first not of his own preservation, but instead forgave the man who tried to assassinate him. By forgiving him instead of holding onto the bitterness he let go of the grudge and allowed the person to let go of their guilt as well. Through forgiving his persecutor, he follows Jesus's Teachings and the message of Luke. He is also living out the Catholic social teaching of the Promotion of Peace by not retaliating or responding with anger instead he makes peace with his persecutor.

In our community today we practice forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation. This is where Catholics can be absolved of their sins against God by the priest who is a channel of God's Forgiveness. This shows us how God is merciful and ever-loving, no matter how many times we sin or how terrible they are God will never stop loving us and will never leave us in the darkness that sin is. Everyone sins at some point and we all can be forgiven by God. This quote from the [REDACTED] shows this *"We all participate in the sin system and experience ourselves at times trapped in the grasp of darkness."* This means that none of us are perfect and if we admit this and ask for forgiveness through reconciliation, we can become closer to God. This is because reconciliation frees us from the darkness and brings our spirit back into the light. This is especially important today as we are in Lent, which is a time for repentance and reflection. Also, it is a time to strengthen our relationship with God which we can do through reconciliation

The gospels were formed in three stages. Luke's Gospel values are timeless meaning they were relevant in Jesus's time when he taught them and are still relevant in our society today and will be forever. Catholics live their lives by these teachings and do this by living out the key messages of loving everyone, especially the outcasts, and forgiving those who have hurt us. Catholics do this through supporting catholic charities like Caritas and St Vincent De Paul, having community meals, and regularly going to the sacrament of reconciliation.