**City of God: Faith in the Streets, by Sara Miles**

I really recommend ‘City of God’ as a pre-lent reading book. Sara Miles writes the book centring on one particular Ash Wednesday, her first time doing ‘Ashes to go’. But the book winds back and forth with stories, memories, experiences of other Ash Wednesdays, of lent and resurrection, and most of all, community. It is gentle yet powerful, streaked with the grace of God in the most ordinary of people and places, as she reflects on the past 2 decades of city life through a lens of faith. It’s a book that can be read at any time, but because of the Ash Wednesday focus, it would be particularly helpful to read in advance, as a way of starting lent having been reminded if what a gift Ash Wednesday is.

“Repentance means turning toward other human beings, our own flesh and blood, whenever they’re oppressed, hungry, or imprisoned; it means acting with compassion instead of indifference.”