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EASTER PARADE:

At Southwark Cathedral on the Thursday of Holy Week, the Queen followed the ancient tradition of distributing the Royal Maundy. She receives first a nosegay of sweet herbs. Usually the ceremony takes place at Westminster Abbey, but this year it was at Southwark in recognition of the jubilee of the diocese.

The custom of the sovereign distributing the Maundy dates back to the days of Edward the first. The recipients number as many old men and old women as the sovereign is years of age.

The gifts used to include cloth, salmon, bread and wine, but nowadays the mint strikes special silver coins for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman come from Camberwell. Mrs. Freeman is eighty-one.

Easter is, of course, essentially a Christian festival, and in cathedral, chapel and parish church, people come to give thanks for Christ's resurrection. Here to Westerham in the heart of Kent, (as in the rest of the Christian world) the young and the old join together in worship.

In Rome, pilgrims in their thousands pack the great square in front of St. Peter's. This huge assembly has come to receive the Pope's blessing 'pro urbi et orbi' for the city and the world. They are silent as he speaks:

In his Easter message, the Pope invoked a special blessing on statesmen that they might spare humanity from the destruction of a new war.

In the far frozen north of Canada, the Eskimos make their way to the small settlement of Pond Inlet to celebrate the ancient Christian festival. And they travel as they're travelled for centuries. Here there's no aeroplane or centrally heated train.

It's the end of the trapping season and after the service, they will begin to trade their skins and furs. The anglican missionary, Mr. Donald Whitbread, rings the bell.

The Eskimos use a special New Testament and prayer book, translated into syllabic writing, and the service is conducted in their own tongue.

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