

## Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



*Above:* Altar of repose in an Episcopal Church in New Jersey. *Right:* Special Maundy coins were minted, such as this from 1982.



*Below:* The Queen distributes Maundy coins.



### Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday comprise the Triduum Sacrum, or three holy days at the end of Lent. Maundy comes from Mandatum, and refers to the words of Jesus regarding the washing of one another's feet. <sup>1</sup> British sovereigns participated in this ceremony which comes after the Gospel. Queens Mary I and Elizabeth I both washed the feet of poor women. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century gifts of money replaced the royal washing. Special coins were minted.

Holy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist and white vestments are worn. In cathedrals on this day the bishop blesses the Holy Oils to be used in all the parishes during the year. This is the Chrisom Mass. It is a very special day.

Following the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the main church to a side chapel (Lady chapel or other safe place), or "place of repose" where it is surrounded with lights and flowers. A watch is supposed to be kept here "at least until midnight." <sup>2</sup> All the altars are stripped.

<sup>1</sup> John 13:14-15

<sup>2</sup> E. C. R. Lamburn, *Ritual Notes*