

Twirl a scarf above my head... it's drilled into me now



Holiday snaps BY JIM MURTY

I'VE witnessed the same drill hundreds of times but I still follow safety checks... just in case an old-school air hostess picks me out to the class to repeat some aspect of it. They're still around, you know. On a trans-Atlantic flight with my octogenarian mother, I asked if the flight attendant would kindly ask the passenger in front to bring his seat forward. She said she could but she wouldn't if it was her. Of course, she is the exception. And I'd rather report the kindnesses offered to me on my travels. On one trip to Bulgaria an attendant soothed my particularly vocal 18-month-old son by bringing wet teabags in a cup to put

over his ears to stop the popping. The safety drill got a revamp recently when Emirates staff put on a humorous soccer-related display in front of Benfica fans at their stadium, the climax of which was advice on how to wave their scarves when Benfica score. There have been other examples of light-hearted drills, not least Southwest Airlines' Marty Cobb who made it on to the Ellen DeGeneres Show after her

special take on the drill went viral. It included her joking that 'to activate flow of oxygen simply insert 75 cents for the first minute.' Now, it's best to know your audience, some people are afraid of flying... me, I'm afraid of old-school air hostesses. Aer Lingus flies to Lisbon from €114.99 return.

I ALL doors lead to Rome. Pope Francis has designated next year as a 'Holy Year of Mercy', from this December 8-November 20. That means the holy doors of the four papal basilicas, including St Peter's, will be open to the public, something that only happens every 25 years unless the Pope decrees it a special year. The holy door of the Santiago de Compost-

ela Cathedral, reputed to be the burial place of St James the Greater, will also be open. CaminoWays.com operates walking and cycling expeditions to Rome and Santiago. Visit www.caminoways.com, www.francigenaways.com.

I CULINARY evangelist Darina Allen has been spreading the word in South Africa... they're only too happy to listen. South African TV chef Jan Scannel has been here this summer to film Jan Braai vir Erfenis (Jan's barbecue for heritage) which is going out to hundreds of thousands of South Africans. Emirates (www.emirates.com) fly Dublin to Cape Town, from €1,125. Who knows what safety drill they'll put on?

