

# Scaffolding goes up

## Cathedral architectural study prepares for completion

Victoria Park's St Joachim's parish to serve as pro-cathedral while completion of St Mary's takes place

■ By Jamie O'Brien

The erection of scaffolding to permit investigation of the arches at St Mary's Cathedral is a visual reminder that the closure of the cathedral is imminent.

Scaffolding was put up shortly after Easter and then again last week so that architects could drill holes in strategic places to check if any structural damage has occurred.

Work will continue for the next month. The Dean of the Cathedral, Monsignor Thomas McDonald, said the drilling is an information gathering exercise so that the diocese will know how much it needs to spend on renovations.

Mgr McDonald said he is unsure when the Cathedral will officially close, depending on the starting date of construction.

"When the Cathedral will officially close we don't know - possibly August," Mgr McDonald said.

The Cathedral Committee is currently in the process of selecting a builder. When the Cathedral is closed, the parish will be invited to use St Joachim's Parish, Victoria Park.

"St Joachim's Parish, Victoria Park, is eminently suitable for the Cathedral to continue its operations," the monsignor said.

"It is a neighbouring Parish to the Cathedral and its facilities are adequate for our needs.

"It has a large and spacious Church, a fine Parish Centre and a sizeable Presbytery.

"In addition it has car parking for large crowds," Mgr McDonald said.

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Home to many - VISTA 1



**Up she goes:** Workers erect scaffolding inside St Mary's Cathedral in Perth so that architectural study of its internal construction can be conducted.

Photo: Janie O'Brien

## Cathedral inspections

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Mgr McDonald said that a Mass on Sunday mornings will be introduced in the inner city at All Saints Chapel in Allendale Square on St George's Terrace in Perth.

"During the time that St Mary's Cathedral is out of action, we must maintain all of our Cathedral par-

ish structures and services and keep our community together. "Hence, I ask all regular and faithful Cathedral Parishioners to make St Joachim's Parish in Victoria Park your spiritual home and Parish when the Cathedral closes for construction work," Mgr McDonald said.

"I can assure you that the relocation and the waiting will be worth it, for the end result will give us a

glorious Cathedral of great beauty-satisfying all our liturgical needs and parish requirements. "Our homecoming will indeed be an occasion of great joy," he said.

The last official ceremony at the Cathedral will be the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on June 30, followed by a farewell Sunday to the old Cathedral. A full Sunday and Weekday Mass Timetable will be published in *The Record* later.