

Perspectives

Looking for clues

Archaeological facts and figures continue to be sought as St Mary's is developed.

Cathedral archaeologist Fr Robert Cross is appealing for photos of St Mary's Cathedral prior to 1910, both internal and external.

There are few photos of the cathedral from the era he is particularly interested in, and any photographs could help him to date key features of the cathedral's history.

Fr Cross has been carrying out the archaeological investigation of the cathedral as a significant part of it is demolished in preparation for its completion, estimated to be in late 2008.

"Externally, we have no photos of the original cathedral from the Royal Perth Hospital side, or from the Goderich Street end," he told *The Record*.

The photos could help date certain parts or additions to St Mary's.

While there are more photographs of the cathedral's exterior, "internally, there are hardly any photos of the original interior of the 1865 cathedral."

He said anything, no matter how ordinary it may seem, could provide important information about what the cathedral was like inside.

"Any angle would help us identify all sorts of things that we need to know. For example: the installation of electricity, movement of

pulpits, height of altar rails, shapes of windows, original floor materials, pews - all those sorts of thing are important," he said.

Those who own such pictures "probably wouldn't recognise what we're looking for," he explained, adding that if anyone has a picture and is in doubt he is happy to assess it.

"Such photos could be of weddings, first holy communions, anything like that," he told *The Record*.

Fr Cross can be contacted on mob: 0418 602 080, or via the cathedral switchboard (08) 9223 1351.

Anyone who wants to mail a photograph to him can do so at: 17 Victoria Ave, c/- Catholic Church Office, Perth WA 6000.