

# Messages of hope for missing man

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By Victoria O'Hara

Messages of hope and support have been sent to the family of missing Ulsterman Martin Kelly to mark the second anniversary of his disappearance.

Friends, family and members of the public yesterday posted messages on the website set up to help generate information as to the 22-year-old's whereabouts.

Martin, from Holywood, was last seen on New Year's Day in 2006 at the Clarendon Dock in Belfast after having drinks with friends in Pat's Bar.

He left the pub and CCTV footage showed him walking towards the Prudential Building at Clarendon Dock around 7.15pm.

He has not been seen since.

Among the most poignant messages was from his friend Aaron who had spent that night with him at the bar.

He said: "Hard to believe it's been two years since we were in Pat's Bar having such a laugh mate. Still thinking of you from over here in Oz."

Among other messages posted on [www.ourmartykelly.com](http://www.ourmartykelly.com), one from Alex McIlwaine said: "I know the whole class is still thinking of you Martin. Hope to see you soon mate."

While Emma McCandless left a message for Martin's family.

"Been thinking of you guys all day and feel terribly upset for you all, and poor Marty wherever he is," she wrote.

"I sincerely hope 2008 brings you news of where he is.

"We never give up hope, I'm sure wherever he is someone is taking care of him as it appears he grew up to be one hell of a loveable guy."

Another message from a childhood friend said: "It's hard to think that you're still gone now Marty and that since you went missing I have thought about you every day, I don't need to say that everyone misses you and wants you back because we all know that already."

Since Martin's disappearance, the family has searched relentlessly for him, making trips to the Republic, Scotland, England and Wales. Despite major land and water searches in the area he has not been seen since.

His mother, Karen Kelly, has searched relentlessly for her son. In July 2006 her hunt took her on a month-long trek around the UK.

This week his father, Raymond Kelly, said he wanted police to search an old Victorian storm drain 40ft from where Martin was last seen.

"The police have already done a lot of work, but I would just like them to search the drain because of its close proximity to where Martin was last seen alive," he said.

"If it's examined and nothing is found, then police can look elsewhere.

"I still cling to what I call the 1% chance that Martin will be found after all this time.

"It's hard to believe it has been two years since we last saw my son."

Anyone with information about Martin's disappearance can contact police on 9065 0222 ext: 26054/26141.

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<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/article3304785.ece>

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